



ECOS

Environmental Council of the States

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March 31, 2021

U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Interior & Environment Subcommittee
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree:

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state, territorial, and District of Columbia (hereinafter referred to collectively as “state”) environmental agency leaders. The mission of ECOS is to improve the capability of state environmental agencies and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment of the United States. Toward that end, ECOS members engage on a broad range of environmental policy matters, including efforts on product stewardship through our Waste Committee and [Sustainable Materials Management \(SMM\) Workgroup](#).

As your committee considers legislation to address waste and recycling challenges and the increase in plastic pollution, ECOS members would like to draw to your attention [ECOS Resolution 12-5: Principles of Extended Producer Responsibility and the Definition of Product Stewardship](#). Resolution 12-5 offers definitions of the terms “product stewardship” and “extended producer responsibility” (EPR) in order to provide “harmonized terminology” to guide the development of policy and legislation. In addition, the resolution endorses the following principles of EPR that should be considered in any legislation:

- Producer responsibility;
- Level playing field;
- Results-based;
- Transparency and accountability; and
- Roles for government, retailers, and consumers.

These principles complement initiatives at the federal level to improve the nation’s recycling infrastructure, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [National Recycling Strategy](#). If implemented well, EPR and product stewardship policies would encourage producers to plan for the entire lifecycle of a product and promote increased investment in recycling infrastructure nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration of ECOS policy in this area. Our members stand ready to contribute further to this discussion. Please feel free to reach out to me to answer any questions or help facilitate the involvement of state environmental agency leaders.

Regards,

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ECOS Executive Director

Patrick McDonnell
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
ECOS President

Ben Grumbles
Maryland Department of the
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