XXXX XX, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Law in Michigan

In recent years Michigan’s recycling system has been reaffirmed by the Michigan Legislature with annual, on-going funding through Michigan's Renew Fund in 2018 and a significant modernization of Part 115 Michigan’s solid waste law in 2022. This year 83 Michigan counties will begin the important work of planning for the management of all end-of-life materials, making way for the delivery of comprehensive recycling services and development of needed support infrastructure.

In spite of recent advancements in productive materials management, however, the financial burden of managing greater volumes of diverse and challenging materials is only growing for Michigan taxpayers and municipalities. And, there is no indication that things will get better unless the Michigan legislature acts to extend producer responsibility through the entire lifecycle of the products and packaging that end up in recycling and waste carts everyday.

We, the undersigned, urge you to adopt a proven solution known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging. This policy framework is already used in 47 countries and provinces around the world to successfully engage producers in assuming some of the burden for the cost and management of material at the end of its useful life. Because EPR has been so successful in those places, many states are now working to bring the policy to the U.S.

EPR is growing in popularity because it strengthens programming, creates cohesive recycling services, and assures investment in needed infrastructure. It also creates a more sustainable, product-based funding mechanism for local recycling that will reduce the burden on taxpayers and municipalities. Studies show that EPR increases recycling rates by up to 50%. And, producers are beginning to embrace this framework as it helps them achieve their own sustainability goals, such as securing needed recycled-content for the development of new products and packaging.

EPR is a more fair, effective, and sustainable solution for providing waste alternatives that support our economy and preserve Michigan’s environment. We urge you to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging law, as soon as possible.

Signed,