



## TITLE OF ISSUE – Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

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As supported by the Board of Supervisors in Resolution Number 236 (passed on June 7, 2011), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an alternative approach to materials management that requires manufacturers and retailers to take greater responsibility for reducing the life-cycle impacts of their products and packaging. This is achieved through improved product design – including design for recycling and the elimination or reduction of toxic constituents – and effective end-of-life collection and management programs.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT**

Among EPR's many benefits are:

- Increased reuse and recycling of materials
- Reduced use of toxic chemicals
- Reduced consumption of energy and natural resources
- Reduced air and water emissions
- Reduced greenhouse gas impacts
- Improved worker safety
- Reduced costs to local government

### **COST TO THE GOVERNMENT**

Local governments are currently responsible for providing recycling and disposal programs for unwanted products. Particularly for products containing hazardous materials (e.g. paint, batteries, fluorescent lights, pesticides, etc.), management costs are very expensive. As EPR programs shift the financial

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burden of managing products to producers and retailers of those products, local governments achieve significant cost savings.

## **REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY**

The County requests that its delegation actively support existing and new legislation to foster EPR programs, either for specific products or through a framework approach.

## **CONTACT**

Mark Schleich, Deputy Director of Public Works, 805.568.3000

*Please list Priority.*

**Targeted Advocacy**

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