

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-46

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Vacaville supports statewide efforts to hold producers responsible for product waste; and

WHEREAS, state policies currently make local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bans, both of which are unfunded mandates costing the City and local taxpayers a significant amount of funds every year; and

WHEREAS, manufactured goods and packaging constitute the vast majority of the materials filling up Hay Road Landfill costing Vacaville residents and businesses millions of dollars a year in refuse rates; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2006, California's Universal Waste Rule (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23) took effect making it illegal to throw items in the garbage defined as "universal waste", which includes household batteries, fluorescent bulbs or tubes, thermostats and other mercury-containing devices, as well as electronic products that include but are not limited to VCRs, microwaves, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the list of Universal and other waste products determined to be hazardous by California's Department of Toxics and Substances Control (DTSC) will continue to grow and therefore be banned from landfills and burden the management of these items to become the responsibility of local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with household products that present a danger to handlers or contain toxic ingredients including mercury, lead, cadmium and other toxic chemicals that when disposed of improperly can contaminate water supplies through landfill leachate; and

WHEREAS, local governments have no input on the design of the products, make no profit from the products, and do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which producers assume both financial and/or physical responsibility for the end-of-life management of post-consumer products; and

WHEREAS, when producers are responsible for ensuring their products are reused or recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic; and

WHEREAS, EPR is a strong incentive for producers to efficiently accomplish the reverse logistics necessary for product take-back.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Vacaville urges our representatives in Sacramento to pursue statewide EPR legislation targeted at universal waste that will give incentives for the redesign of products to make them less toxic, and shift the cost of recycling and proper disposal of products from local government to the producer and distributor of the product; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Vacaville will continue to support EPR initiatives and statewide legislation beyond universal waste to cover areas including other hazardous products.

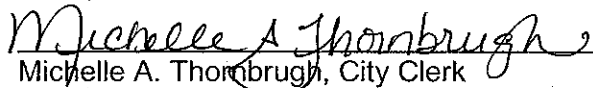
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was introduced and passed at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Vacaville, held on the 13th day of May 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Council members Clancy, Hunt, Wilkins, and Mayor Augustine

NOES: None

ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Dimmick

ATTEST:


Michelle A. Thornbrugh, City Clerk