

July 29, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via Position Letter Portal

RE: SB 707 (Newman) – Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024 – SPONSOR

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

The California Product Stewardship (CPSC) is a 501(c)(3) organization with an extensive network of local governments, non-government organizations, businesses, and individuals supporting policies and projects where producers share in the responsibility for managing problem products at end-of-life. CPSC leads six publicly funded textile recovery pilots working cooperatively to compare textile recovery options and form recommendations for state and local textile programs. CPSC is pleased to sponsor SB 707: Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024, to establish a comprehensive textile EPR program to establish local collection infrastructure.

Textiles have been identified as a top material, and fastest growing category, in residential and commercial waste streams in California. Local governments face costly challenges expanding textile collection and sorting since the materials can absorb, tangle, and combust if mixed into plastic recycling systems. The cost burden for managing unusable textiles has fallen on thrifts, collectors, and secondhand markets, while producers keep making products with no plan for what to do with them when they are no longer wearable. Local governments have attempted to include textiles in curbside programs, but costs and logistics are burdensome. San Francisco's program resulted in high-contamination rates and consumer confusion. Castro Valley experienced high rates of unusable textiles collected curbside.

SB 707 (Newman) would require producers of textiles and textile articles to design and fund an extended producer responsibility program to collect, repair, and recycle these items. The program would use California's network of thrift and secondhand businesses to collect unwanted textiles for sorting and recycling, with textiles that can be reused or repaired being sorted for those purposes. The bill would have strong oversight by state regulators and a robust education and outreach requirement to ensure that consumers know how to access the program.

California continues to lead by holding producers accountable for planning and funding an ongoing repair and recycling program for managing unusable textiles and apparel. California has the opportunity to make a global impact by establishing a first-of-its kind EPR program for textiles that builds on the precedent set in the state by other EPR programs. Currently, France is the only one to have a textile EPR program in the entire world, however it needs improvements on internalizing waste costs, global

accountability, and transparency. It's up to California, a top global waste generator, to take impactful actions to address textile waste and sets the stage for as a center for sustainable fashion.

State Cost Covered Entirely by Fees

We understand that the fiscal impact of proposed legislation is especially important as the legislature continues to grapple with unfortunately budget deficits. For that reason, we'd like to highlight that all the state's start-up costs for implementation of SB 707, as well as any ongoing costs of oversight, are explicitly covered by user fees charged to the regulated community. Additionally, EPR is an extremely efficient regulatory model because the program is designed, funded, and administered by the regulated community and regulators perform oversight. This model has been shown time and again to be an efficient method of achieving important environmental outcomes for the state.

For these reasons, CPSC is pleased to sponsor SB 707 and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council