

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Kristine Reeves Washington State House of Representatives LEG 132E PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Submitted via Public Comment Form

RE: CPSC Supports SB 1420 (Reeves) – Textile Extended Producer Responsibility

Dear Representative Reeves,

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) supports your House Bill 1420, which establishes producer responsibility for textiles. CPSC's mission is to advance California's transition to a circular economy by promoting product stewardship and extended producer responsibility (EPR). In 2024, CPSC proudly served as the sole sponsor of SB 707 (Newman), the nation's first EPR bill for textiles. We sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this critical legislation and commend your leadership on addressing this important issue.

Textile waste is a growing problem in the United States, with the EPA estimating that over 17 million tons of textiles were generated in 2018, of which only 14.7% was recycled. In Washington and across the nation, the lack of infrastructure and comprehensive policies for textile recovery exacerbates environmental and social challenges, including overflowing landfills, greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing materials, and the environmental impacts of microplastics released from synthetic fibers.

Producer responsibility programs have proven successful in managing other types of waste, including electronics, paint, and mattresses. Building on the success of legislation like California's SB 707, HB 1420 extends the principle of producer responsibility to textiles in Washington, leveraging proven frameworks to tackle another critical waste stream. Extending this approach to textiles has the potential to significantly reduce waste, conserve natural resources, and support local recycling infrastructure while creating green jobs and driving innovation in the apparel and textile industries.

For these reasons, we urge your AYE vote on HB 1420.

Respectfully,

Joanne Breich

Joanne Brasch Director of Advocacy and Outreach