

July 3, 2023

Assembly Member Luz M. Rivas Chair of Assembly Committee on Natural Resources 1020 N Street, Room 164 Sacramento, California 95814

Submitted via Position Letter Portal

RE: SB 707 (Newman) – Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Rivas,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we support SB 707: Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023, to establish a comprehensive textile EPR program to establish local collection infrastructure.

Textiles are the fifth most common material and the fastest growing category in residential and commercial waste streams in California. Textile and clothing producers over-produce hard-to-manage materials that can absorb, tangle, and combust if mixed into plastic recycling system. 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. For too long, textiles collected under the guise of recycling ended up in markets with less infrastructure and environmental protections. Industry efforts to increase textile reuse, repair, and recycling options have proven siloed and lacking transparency.

California has a long history of learned experiences with EPR and an 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. There is currently only one textile EPR program that exists in the entire world. It's up to California, a top global waste generator, to take impactful actions to address textile waste and set the stage as a center for sustainable fashion.

For these reasons, we support SB 707 and appreciate your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Doug Kobold, Executive Director California Product Stewardship Council

Connie Ulasewicz, Founder & President CBU Productions

Jordan Wells, Director of Advocacy & Communications

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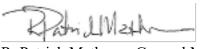
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Social Compassion in Legislation