

**Alaska Chapter SWANA  
Resolution 2023-01**

**Supporting the Concept of a  
Statewide Electronics Product Stewardship Program**

Whereas, solid waste management is an essential public service that protects human health and the environment, and municipalities around the state providing this service are facing budget deficits.

Whereas, the estimated 3 million pounds of electronic wastes that Alaskans discard annually contribute to deficits through requiring specialized management and/or hastening the need for landfill closure and new landfill construction.

Whereas, electronics contain toxic chemicals harmful to human health and subsistence resources, such as heavy metals and these chemicals leach out of landfilled electronics, and may eventually enter groundwater or ocean waters.

Whereas, due to engineering and economy of scale considerations, rural and hub landfills, serving about one-third of all Alaskans, are under regulations unique to Alaska and are not designed to contain or treat this leachate, engendering an immediate potential for chemicals to enter nearby lands and waters that may be used for subsistence or household drinking water.

Whereas, regional landfills with leachate collection systems in Alaska's urban areas are under increasing pressure to meet stringent leachate pretreatment and discharge permit requirements.

Whereas, scientific studies have found that landfill workers are at increased health risk due to exposure to heavy metals associated with landfill particulate matter and electronics are a significant source of these metals.

Whereas, at least 30 rural landfills are within 100 feet of a primary water body and about three-quarters are within one mile of homes, and these landfills are often not consolidated or covered, and commonly use burning without emissions treatment to manage waste streams, residents can potentially be exposed to product chemicals that cause health impacts.

Whereas, recycling electronics results in these chemicals being used instead to make new products, and 27 states use Product Stewardship laws that result in electronic manufacturers paying all or part of their recycling costs without an associated increase in the price paid for electronics in those states because the recycling costs are recouped via market sales globally.

Whereas a program can be developed in Alaska that does not tax or charge users, and does not emplace an administrative burden on Alaska retailers.

Whereas Alaska residents also deserve to benefit from a shared disposal cost set by the market, and increased recycling and backhaul opportunities can create local jobs and revenue for the municipalities, recyclers, and the transportation industry.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Chapter of SWANA supports the concept of a Statewide Electronics Product Stewardship Program to reduce public health risks, and reduce local government budget deficits, with the understanding that support of a specific bill will require review of final language.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF SWANA ON THE 20th DAY OF JANUARY 2023.

Passed via motion/membership vote at annual meeting on January 20, 2023