



A local non-profit that encourages and enables our community to reduce waste and increase recycling.

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March 14, 2024

RE: SB175 Support Letter

Dear Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

Green Star of Interior Alaska is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to encourage and enable the Fairbanks community and Interior Alaska to reduce waste and increase recycling. We do this through numerous programs, but chiefly through providing recycling, including electronic recycling to the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). Green Star fully supports the passage of Senate Bill 175 that establishes a system of product stewardship for electronic recycling in Alaska. Joining most of the world, half of US states and Canada in this effort, Alaska will benefit greatly from having a regular source of funding to pay for the diversion of electronic waste from our state's landfills and convert it into useful material again.

Our organization has been handling the electronic recycling for the 100,000+ residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough since 1998. Through tireless fundraising, 1000's of volunteer hours, public contracts paid for by residents' property tax, and grants, we have managed to pay for this recycling and keep over 1000 tons of electronic waste out of landfills around the state. Through our Rural Backhaul program, we have also been recycling electronic waste from 26 communities outside of the Borough who otherwise would have burned that waste in unlined landfills. This bill would establish a program that shifts the financial burden of electronic recycling from the people of Alaska to the manufactures of these products who profit greatly from their sale. Many of these manufacturers are familiar with product stewardship as they are mandated to provide it in other states and countries.

Green Star implores you to pass this bill and make electronic recycling an integral part of Alaska's infrastructure to keep the heavy metals and toxins found in electronics out of our land, air and water.

Sincerely,

Tait Chandler  
Green Star Board President  
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