

1 [Extended Producer Responsibility]

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3 **Resolution urging San Francisco’s State delegation to support statewide efforts to**
4 **hold producers responsible for product waste, starting with toxic products defined as**
5 **universal waste; requesting the Department of the Environment recommend local**
6 **extended producer responsibility policies as well as work with necessary agencies to**
7 **develop producer responsibility language for inclusion in City contracts.**
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10 WHEREAS, Manufactured goods and packaging constitute about seventy-five percent
11 of the materials managed by the City and County of San Francisco and sent to landfill,
12 costing San Francisco residents and businesses about \$150 million a year in refuse rates
13 plus millions more in taxes to manage; and

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15 WHEREAS, On February 8, 2006, a state law takes effect that makes it illegal to throw
16 in the garbage items defined as “universal waste,” which includes household batteries,
17 fluorescent bulbs or tubes, thermostats, other items that contain mercury, as well as
18 electronic devices including VCRs, microwaves, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers,
19 and radios; and

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21 WHEREAS, Assuming a fifty percent recovery rate, collecting and disposing of these
22 products now banned from the trash will cost San Francisco an estimated additional \$5
23 million each year; and

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25 WHEREAS, When additional products are declared as hazardous by the State the
burden to manage these items will fall to local jurisdictions; and

1 WHEREAS, There are significant environmental and human health impacts associated
2 with household products that contain toxic ingredients, including mercury, lead, cadmium and
3 other toxic chemicals that when disposed of improperly can contaminate water supplies; and

4 WHEREAS, By covering the costs of collection and disposal, local governments are
5 subsidizing the production of waste because manufacturers know that whatever they produce
6 the local government will foot the bill for recycling or disposal; and

7 WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility is an environmental policy approach in
8 which producers assume responsibility—financial and/or physical—for the management of
9 post-consumer products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of
10 recycling and proper disposal; and

11 WHEREAS, When brand owners are responsible for ensuring their products are
12 recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product
13 price, there is a strong incentive to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier
14 to recycle, and less toxic; and

15 WHEREAS, It is timely to develop and support extended producer responsibility
16 legislation to address the universal waste sector of the waste stream first in response to the
17 state ban on universal waste from household disposal; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges our representatives in Sacramento
19 to pursue statewide extended producer responsibility legislation targeted at universal waste
20 that will give incentives for the redesign of products to make them less toxic, and shift the cost
21 for recycling and proper disposal of products from the local government to the producer and
22 distributor of the product; and, be it
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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of the Environment develop producer
2 responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing them, and requiring the
3 manufacturers of products sold to City departments to offer less toxic alternatives, and to take
4 responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco will continue to
6 support extended producer responsibility initiatives and statewide legislation beyond universal
7 waste to cover areas including other hazardous products, bulky packaging, and items like
8 plastics and multi-material products that are difficult to recycle.
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