



February 8, 2024

RE: Passing the ReWRAP Act (HB 2049/SB 6005) in 2024

Dear Speaker Jinkins, Majority Leader Fitzgibbon, and Honorable Members of the House:

As elected officials representing communities in King County, we are writing to provide our support of Washington State HB 2049, the ReWRAP Act.

Confronting climate change and accelerating the transition to a clean energy economy are top priorities for our communities and members of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), a coalition of local governments – King County, 21 cities, and the Port of Seattle – working to advance shared, formal goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 50 percent by 2030 and 95 percent by 2050. The jurisdictions in the K4C represent 85 percent of King County's 2.25 million residents, nearly 25 percent of the state's population.

Members of the K4C have charted out specific commitments needed to meet GHG reduction targets including to, by 2030, achieve zero waste of resources for materials that have economic value for reuse, resale, and recycling. As articulated in the K4C's Joint Climate Action Commitments, K4C partners are partnering on many related strategies, including (1) waste prevention and reuse, (2) product stewardship, recycling, and composting, and (3) beneficial use. The ReWRAP Act plays a key role in achieving these goals.

We are supportive of the ReWRAP Act for the following reasons:

- It is critical to making progress towards the goal of zero waste of resources, supporting efforts to reduce waste and dispose of what waste there is in more sustainable ways.
- Nearly 70% of the material that currently goes to the landfill could instead be reused, recycled, or composted. Throughout a product's lifecycle, from production to eventual disposal, significant GHG gas emissions are generated. This bill would help reduce waste and increase recycling, and is estimated to result in recycling an additional 212,000 tons and avoiding 565,000 MTCO₂e emissions across Washington each year.
- It would modernize our recycling system, bringing it up to par with places like British Columbia which had an 86% recycling rate for paper and packaging in 2022 – almost double Washington's.
- The cost of recycling is increasing. This bill would require producers to take responsibility for their packaging and pay for a coordinated statewide curbside recycling program making recycling easier and free for residents.
- Currently 1 in 6 residents in Washington lack curbside recycling at home. This bill would provide service to everyone that has curbside garbage collection – expanding access to 542,000 Washington households.

- It would also create accountability for responsible recycling and drive investments in domestic recycling markets.

The legislature has conducted several studies pointing to producer responsibility as the best approach to achieve the highest greenhouse gas emissions reductions and recycling rates in Washington. Without a statewide EPR system, producers will not be part of the solution and we will continue to send valuable materials to the landfill with serious climate impacts. Again, we reiterate the urgency of this work and, as elected officials representing our residents, request your support for HB 2049.

Sincerely,



Executive Dow Constantine
King County



Mayor Bruce Harrell
City of Seattle



Mayor Lynne Robinson
City of Bellevue



Mayor Angela Birney
City of Redmond



Mayor Kelli Curtis
City of Kirkland



Mayor Kali Clark
City of Sammamish



Mayor Mason Thompson
City of Bothell



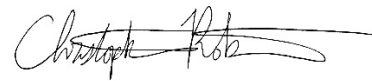
Mayor Mary Lou Pauly
City of Issaquah



Mayor Nigel Herbig
City of Kenmore



Mayor Tom French
City of Lake Forest Park



Mayor Chris Roberts
City of Shoreline

Claudia Balducci
Councilmember
King County

Mo Malakoutian
Deputy Mayor
City of Bellevue

Janice Zahn
Councilmember
City of Bellevue

Jay Arnold
Deputy Mayor
City of Kirkland

Neal Black
Councilmember
Kirkland

John Tymczyszyn
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Laura Mork
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Pam Stuart
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Lake Forest Park

Penny Sweet
Councilmember
Kirkland

Amy Falcone
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Kirkland

Semra Riddle
Councilmember
Lake Forest Park

Larry Goldman
Councilmember
Lake Forest Park

Ellyn Saunders
Councilmember
Lake Forest Park

Craig Reynolds
Councilmember
Mercer Island