



October 6, 2020

Searle Turton
Member of Legislative Assembly Spruce Grove-Stony Plain
6th Floor, 9820 -107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1E7

Dear Mr. Turton,

Thank you for bringing forward Private Members' Motion 510 urging the Alberta government to examine the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy. AUMA is pleased to provide our support to this motion and highlight the work Alberta municipalities have done to date.

Alberta municipalities have long advocated for better recycling in Alberta, including an EPR program for packaging and paper products. In 2019, over 90 per cent of AUMA members supported an [AUMA resolution](#) calling on the provincial government to establish robust EPR regulations for paper and packaging, and work with AUMA to establish a modern recycling framework that sets Alberta on the path towards comprehensive EPR policies.

In our Red Tape Reduction recommendations to the provincial government, we emphasized how the Alberta government can achieve better results without spending more money on recycling and increasing its footprint. An EPR program will allow businesses' greater flexibility to manage their waste while the Alberta government focuses on outcomes, leaving the private sector to find the best solutions.

This year, AUMA worked with our partners and published the [Alberta EPR Collaborative EPR Study \(ACES\)](#) highlighting the environmental, financial and economic gains of an EPR policy. The benefits expected from a made-in-Alberta solution to EPR for packaging and paper products include:

- Reducing the recycling collection services costs that municipalities charge their residents each year by up **to \$105 million**: this is Albertans' money, and it can be reinvested in other municipal services or provided as a cost-saving to municipal residents;
- Adding **\$16 million** to the Alberta economy annually;
- Creating approximately **220 new jobs** in Alberta's recycling industry;
- Recycling an additional **21,000 tonnes** of packaging and paper products annually;
- Increasing recycling opportunities for rural Alberta and people who live in multi-dwelling residences; and
- Making recycling more convenient for Albertans by collecting the same materials province-wide.

Although not directly highlighted in our ACES report, an EPR program for paper and packaging products has been identified as a pivotal component to build a plastic circular economy in Alberta, which is an instrument to diversify Alberta's petrochemical industry. Alberta can solve plastics pollution worldwide while creating jobs in chemical and oil and gas industries locally. AUMA has

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already started this discussion with the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation as the ministry continues its work on a natural gas strategy.

AUMA has also heard from businesses that small businesses' viability must be protected as part of an EPR plan. Alberta municipalities agree with this full-heartedly and believe that an EPR packaging and paper program must have a small business policy that eliminates red tape and administrative burdens.

During the 2020 AUMA Convention, over 90 per cent of municipalities endorsed the [Give it Back Resolution](#) that directs AUMA to work with the province to pass EPR legislation. This resolution also encourages every member municipality to pass any and all savings found from the adoption of province-wide EPR directly back to taxpayers and ratepaying Albertans when the Government of Alberta adopts EPR legislation. Alberta municipalities want to share the savings with residents and businesses, but we need provincial leaders to enact EPR legislation.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for Motion 510. Municipalities are ready for an EPR program for packaging and paper products. Industry who are already at the table also wants to see Alberta be a leader in solving plastic waste and building a plastic circular economy that creates jobs while diversifying our economy. If you would like to further discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me by email at president@auma.ca or my cell phone at (403) 363-9224.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Morishita', written in a cursive style.

Barry Morishita
AUMA President