

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the Governor and Legislature to Reform E-Waste**
6 **Recycling to Provide Relief to Local Governments and Protect New York’s**
7 **Natural Resources**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, despite enactment of the 2010 Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse
10 Act that intended to shift e-waste management costs from municipalities to
11 manufacturers, local governments continue to bear significant financial and operational
12 burdens due to insufficient manufacturer support and unstable collection infrastructure;
13 and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the current e-waste program has critical systemic failures, including:

- 16 • Many collection sites becoming non-operational, leaving some areas with as few
17 as three locations to serve hundreds of thousands of residents;
- 18 • Counties forced to either absorb substantial unbudgeted costs or suspend vital
19 collection services;
- 20 • Manufacturers exploiting mail-back programs rather than providing convenient
21 local collection options for large items such as televisions; and
- 22 • Inadequate oversight and enforcement of manufacturer obligations; and
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24 **WHEREAS**, electronic products contain toxic materials like lead, mercury, and other
25 hazardous substances that can contaminate soil and groundwater if improperly
26 disposed, making robust collection systems essential for protecting public health and
27 the environment; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, while the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted new
30 regulations in 2022 attempting to improve the program, these changes have not
31 resolved the fundamental problems municipalities face in maintaining e-waste
32 collection services; and
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34 **WHEREAS**, S.7941 (Harckham, 2023-24) would address these failures by requiring
35 manufacturers to provide more convenient collection methods, clarifying manufacturer
36 responsibility for all program costs, improving reporting requirements, and enhancing
37 enforcement capabilities.
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
40 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and Legislature to:

- 41 • Provide dedicated funding to reimburse municipal e-waste management costs;
- 42 • Require manufacturers to establish and fund permanent local collection sites;
- 43 • Strengthen DEC’s enforcement authority to hold manufacturers accountable; and
- 44 • Eliminate mail-back programs from satisfying convenience standards; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC strongly supports S.7941 (2023-24) and
2 urges its enactment during the 2025 Legislative Session; and
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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
5 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
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7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
8 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the
9 Department of Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed necessary and
10 proper.