

Electronic Manufacturers Coalition for Responsible Recycling

1776 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: 202.719.7102 | Fax: 202.719.7049

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Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi &
Members of the House of Representatives
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Response to Chairman Smizik re H. 4991 (E-Waste Bill)

Dear Mr. Speaker and members of the House:

Last night Natural Resources committee chairman Frank Smizik responded to yesterday's letter in which I explained why TV manufacturers are so strongly opposed to H. 4991, the e-waste bill.

1. The Chairman warned of an influx of old-style CRT televisions into the municipal waste stream as broadcasters switch to digital signals. But **approximately 85% of households receive television signals from satellite and cable providers; they will not be impacted by this switch.** The remaining 15% of homes are eligible for two \$40 vouchers from the government to cover the cost of converter boxes to allow their existing TVs to receive digital transmissions. Fear of a tsunami of discarded TVs is overblown. (Besides, as the Chairman acknowledges, Massachusetts banned CRT televisions from landfills in 2000.)

2. Chairman Smizik's letter explained why he thinks the proposed allocation of recycling costs is fair, while acknowledging that manufacturers come and go. (Under this bill, those who make TVs now would pick up the recycling costs of companies that had quit building them.) If that were true, surely some of manufacturers would support this bill. In fact, **no television manufacturers are on record as supporting this bill.** All the industry trade associations, including AEA and ITI have weighed in against it.

3. The chairman argues that the bill "augments the state's existing recycling infrastructure," but in fact it only **requires manufacturers to set up their own collection/recycling infrastructures**, in many cases duplicating or even undermining systems that Massachusetts has already put in place. In states with similar laws, it is not the cities and towns who benefit, or even the local recycling firms, but out-of state companies (such as CRT Processing, Uniwaste and Eco-International) that are large enough to compete for statewide contracts. Small recyclers in these states are not reaping the benefits promised when these recycling laws were enacted in their states, nor are they creating the local jobs that communities were promised.

This bill is unnecessary and counterproductive. Again on behalf of all major TV manufacturers in the U.S., most of whom are members of EMCRR, I urge you to defeat H. 4991.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS J. MARELLA
Senior Manager, Corporate Environmental Affairs
Sharp Electronics Corporation
One Sharp Plaza
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430