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JONATHAN HECHT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

29TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
WATERTOWN • CAMBRIDGE

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 22

Committees:

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TEL: (617) 722-2140

Jonathan.Hecht@MAhouse.gov

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The Honorable Smitty Pignatelli
Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
State House, Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Anne Gobi
Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
State House, Room 513
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Pignatelli and Chair Gobi,

I am writing respectfully to request a favorable report on H.797, *An Act requiring producer responsibility for collection, reuse and recycling of discarded electronic products.*

Electronic waste (e-waste) makes up the fastest growing portion of the municipal solid waste stream in the Commonwealth. This can be attributed to the ubiquitousness of electronics in our lives and the products' short lifespans. The rapid pace of technological change means electronics manufacturers have little incentive to make their products durable or easy to repair. When Massachusetts consumers part with their electronics, however, they find few convenient ways to recycle them. Statistics show that less than 20% of the approximately 2.9 million tons of e-waste produced in the U.S. annually is diverted from landfills. Once in landfills, e-waste leaches toxic chemicals and heavy metals such as lead and mercury into our environment.

H.797 establishes an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system for e-waste that requires producers and first importers of desktop computers, laptops, flat panel displays, and printers to plan and pay for the collection and reuse of their discarded products. This responsibility creates a

financial incentive for producers to redesign their products to be less toxic, more durable, and easier to recycle. This market-based solution will stimulate business and technical innovation and save taxpayers millions of dollars each year by reducing stress on municipal budgets.

EPR for e-waste enjoys broad support across the country and the Commonwealth. Twenty-five states, including Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maine, have already successfully implemented EPR systems for e-waste. H.797 has received support from by city councils and selectboards in 182 Massachusetts cities and towns, as well as by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Municipal Association, Conservation Law Foundation, the Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, the League of Women Voters and MassPIRG.

Thank you for your Committee's consideration of this important legislation. Please feel free to be in touch with any questions or concerns you may have.

Best regards,



Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex