Month Day, 2020

MLA Title MLA First Name MLA Last Name

MLA for Riding Name

Address Line 1

City Province Postal Code

Dear MLA Last Name,

Alberta municipalities appreciate the recent efforts by the Government of Alberta to improve provincial recycling programs. Funding for a three-year agricultural plastics recycling pilot, although only a short-term solution, will provide temporary relief for municipalities that are experiencing challenges with agricultural plastics. Also, recent legislation which gives the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) the ability to adjust fees according to the cost of operation will help to improve and provide sustainability to recycling programs. However, more work needs to be done to modernize Alberta’s recycling framework and we need the provincial government as a partner in improving our recycling programs.

We believe it is vital that Alberta has:

* **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies**

AUMA advocates for a province wide EPR paper and packaging program similar to what has been established in other Canadian jurisdictions. Residential recycling in Alberta is a patchwork of different municipal recycling programs without any consistency on accepted items. The recently published Alberta Collaborative EPR Study (ACES) proposes a made-in-Alberta vision for an EPR for residential packaging and paper products. Benefits of EPR outlined in the study include adding $16 million to the Alberta economy and 220 new recycling industry jobs, while also recycling an additional 21,000 tonnes of material and reducing CO2 emissions by 72,000 tonnes per year.

* **Recycling programs to match today’s waste streams**

Today’s programs are accepting the same items as they did two decades ago, yet the variety of products has increased exponentially. For example, Alberta’s electronics recycling program managed by ARMA does not accept small appliances, electronic toys, and game consoles, which are part of other provinces’ electronic recycling programs.

Agricultural plastics is another example of new waste that today’s system does not cover. It is crucial that the three-year pilot is transitioned into a permanent program.

**Call to improve Waste Management**

The municipality of X is calling on the Government of Alberta to take the following actions:

* Work with municipalities on a more comprehensive approach to reducing waste including:
  + Developing an EPR paper and packaging program, the benefits of which are outlined in the recent ACES study; and
  + Expanding current recycling programs to accept new materials that are currently going to our landfills, but can be recycled.

As our MLA, we hope you will join us in championing the need for improved waste management in the Province of Alberta.

Sincerely,

Title, First Name, Last Name

Municipality of X

cc: The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks

The Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Barry Morishita, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association *or*

Al Kemmere, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta