May XX, 2015

**SUBJECT: *Encourage swift action to update New York State Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act***

Dear XX,

As you know, one of the main reasons for the adoption of the New York State Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act (Act) was to assist local governments with managing the recycling and end-of-life costs associated with the fast-growing electronics waste stream. The Act has succeeded in significantly increasing electronics recovery and recycling in the state. However, the collection infrastructure is rapidly shrinking, particularly since the January 2015 Disposal Ban has taken effect, leaving local governments and other collectors faced with mounting fees in the absence of consistent manufacturer funding and limited markets for cathode ray tubes (CRTs). The consequence is a growing number of municipalities bearing more of the financial responsibility for continued e-scrap collection in their communities.

The Act requires electronics manufacturers to fund e-scrap recycling programs that are effective, continuous and reasonably convenient to all New York State residents. Manufacturers are required to collect a minimum amount of e-scrap based upon a performance standard derived from the weight of electronics annually sold by manufacturers. Once manufacturers meet their performance standard (goal), which in a number of cases is midway through the year, they no longer provide financial support to continue their programs, thus shifting management costs to unexpecting and cash-strapped local governments. The issue is made worse by the fact that electronics currently sold today are much lighter than the obsolete CRT devices that make up about 70% of generated e-scrap weight, which are costly to responsibly manage. As a result, many local governments across the state have been forced to find a way to fund collection or cease collection for their residents. This decision has been especially difficult in rural communities that do not benefit from retail collectors or economies of scale.

In order to stabilize the program and ensure year-round financial support for convenient e-scrap collection, the performance standards need to increase and the convenience standards must be further clarified. The attached solution platform lays out in greater detail the improvements that we propose.

Local governments urgently need your leadership to address this critical issue. Please support updating New York State’s e-scrap recycling law to eliminate the undue financial burden on local governments as the law intended.

Sincerely,

Name