



May 19, 2021

Honourable Prasad Panda
Minister of Infrastructure
127 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Panda:

In late March 2021, the Minister of Environment and Parks launched an engagement on recycling with stakeholders. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Discussion Paper, released by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), focused on a made-in-Alberta EPR framework and the development of two EPR programs – Packaging and Paper and Household Hazardous Products.

We understand that your ministry recently decided to reduce funding to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program, but a new EPR HHW Program will not be ready until 2022 or later. Today's HHW Program has been collecting products for 30 years. It is well-known among Albertans. Municipalities are already contributing to the HHW Program with additional financial support from AEP and, in the past, Alberta Infrastructure. Due to Alberta Infrastructure cutting back on its funding, municipalities are expected to contribute more, making recycling HHW unaffordable for many communities. The service interruption is a lost opportunity for all Albertans.

We ask you to reinstate the previous level of funding for the HHW Program to stop service disruptions until AEP introduces a permanent EPR solution. For years, AEP and municipalities have educated residents about the recycling of HHW materials. A year before having a permanent program, we may be forced to turn away residents at HHW collection sites, telling them to stop bringing materials until an EPR program is in place. Some HHW materials may end up in landfills or be dumped illegally, contaminating Alberta's lands and waterways. Service disruptions only create future communication and implementation barriers, as program operators, AEP, and local governments must persuade Albertans to recycle their HHW again after the HHW Program is postponed.

Your support in HHW Program creates jobs, and it is an investment in Albertans. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me by email at president@auma.ca or my cell phone at (403) 363-9224.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Morishita', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry Morishita
AUMA President

cc Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
 Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks
 Mr. Searle Turton, Member of Legislative Assembly, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain