Month Day, 2019

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 Government of Alberta’s recent funding for a three-year agricultural plastics recycling pilot. The pilot, although only a short-term solution, will provide temporary relief for municipalities that are experiencing challenges with agricultural plastics. There is more work need to be done to modernizing Alberta’s recycling framework, and we need the provincial government as a partner in fixing 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. In 2016, industries provided more than **$367 million** to fund provincially regulated paper and packaging recycling across Canada. Alberta received **$0**. Residential recycling in Alberta is a patchwork of different municipal recycling programs without any consistency on accepted items. British Columbia, by comparison, introduced an EPR paper and packaging program several years back. Now Recycle BC, a non-profit organization, funds and operates a consistent, province-wide program.

* **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 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 the three-year pilot transition into a permanent program.

* **Long-term and financially sustainable recycling programs**

Alberta municipalities have long been partners with the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (Alberta Recycling). Through 450 municipal depots, Albertans can recycle used oil, paint, scrap tires, and end-of-life electronics. These depots keep toxic waste out of our landfills.

Alberta Recycling does not have the authority to determine recycling fees for the programs it operates. The fees are no longer sufficient to cover the costs. AUMA believes a simple and workable solution is to provide Alberta Recycling with the ability to adjust the fees according to the cost of operation. This approach is like Alberta’s Beverage Container Management Board and many stewardship programs in Canada. Under this structure, the Minister of Environment and Parks continues to have oversight of Alberta Recycling and ensuring that it continues to serve Albertans’ recycling needs.

Recycling provides more than just environmental benefits. It creates jobs at every step in the recycling process. Collecting, transporting, and processing all need people and equipment to make sure scrap tires, electronics, paint, oil, paper, and packaging materials are safely handled and recycled.

**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;
	+ Expanding current recycling programs to accept new materials that are currently going to our landfills, but can be recycled;
	+ Amending the regulations to give Alberta Recycling the flexibility to change the recycling fees; and
	+ Working with municipalities to determine how revenue from the carbon levy can be used to support waste reduction initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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 Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks

The Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs

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

Al Kemmere, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta