

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 514 OF 2015

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Girard, Sokol, Wood, Frasier, Westcott and Strough

URGING STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO AMEND THE NEW YORK STATE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RECYCLING AND REUSE ACT

WHEREAS, the main reason for the adoption of the New York State Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act (Act) was to assist local governments with managing the fast growing electronics waste stream by relying on electronics manufacturers to fund a recycling infrastructure and relieve municipalities from the recycling and end-of-life management costs; and

WHEREAS, the Act has succeeded in significantly increasing electronics recovery and recycling in the state, but the collection infrastructure is unstable and local governments and other collectors are faced with mounting fees in the absence of consistent manufacturer funding and limited markets for cathode ray tubes (CRTs), and

WHEREAS, the consequences of the Act are significant, as a growing number of municipalities such as Warren County are faced with bearing more of the financial burden for continued e-scrap collection in their communities, and

WHEREAS, the Act requires, and the state relies on, electronics manufacturers to fund e-scrap recycling programs that are effective, continuous and reasonable convenient to all consumers across the state, and

WHEREAS, once manufacturers have met their performance standard (goal), which in a number of cases is midway through the year, they no longer provide financial support to continue their collection programs, thus shifting management costs to unexpected, cash-strapped local governments, and

WHEREAS, the issue is worsened by the fact that electronics sold today weigh much less than the obsolete CRT devices that make up approximately 70% of the weight of e-scrap generated, which are cost intensive to responsibly manage, and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in many local governments across the state having to grapple with the burden to fund or cease e-scrap collection, which has been particularly difficult in rural communities including Warren County that do not benefit from retail collectors or economies of scale, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors does hereby call upon Governor Cuomo,

RESOLUTION No. 514 OF 2015

PAGE 2 OF 2

the New York State Assembly, the New York State Senate, and the Department of Environmental Conservation to improve the current law intended to build toward the long-term goals of creating a more stable and comprehensive, manufacturer implemented electronics recycling infrastructure by implementing actions to strengthen communication among stakeholders, clarify key statutory provisions in their present rulemaking efforts, and promote the adoption of the Proposed Statutory Changes to the Act to provide for year round, no-cost collection of electronics, consistent with convenience standards for both rural and urban populations that help alleviate the immediate financial pressures faced by local governments, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little; and Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby authorize and direct the Chairman of the Board to forward a letter to the State Legislature to identify the issue with the electronics recycling program and request that the Legislature seek solutions.