



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution Regarding The Importance Of Recycling And Distinguishing Recyclable Materials As Valuable Commodities That Are Not Solid Waste

- 1 **Resolution Regarding The Importance Of Recycling And Distinguishing Recyclable**
2 **Materials As Valuable Commodities That Are Not Solid Waste**
- 3 **WHEREAS**, as the world becomes more prosperous and resources become more scarce, materials such as metals,
4 paper, plastic, glass, rubber, and textiles that are integral to manufacturing should be reused or recycled, and
- 5 **WHEREAS**, products and materials that have fulfilled their original intended use hold value as recyclable materials
6 for use as raw materials in lieu of virgin materials by manufacturers, and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, in an era of limitless business ingenuity but limited resources, the sustainable management of natural
8 capital is increasingly at the forefront of international dialogue about how to achieve economic growth without
9 compromising human health and the environment upon which that growth depends, and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, the use of recyclable materials in the manufacturing process conserves precious natural resources,
11 saves vast amounts of energy, and reduces the environmental impact of manufacturing, and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, recycling reduces emissions by significantly saving the amount of energy needed to manufacture the
13 products that we buy, build, and use, and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, the United States annually processes nearly 251 billion pounds of recyclable material – the weight of
15 more than 71 million cars, and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, recycling is an integral part of sustainably conserving valuable materials today for future generations
17 and therefore should not be confused with managing solid waste, and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, businesses, consumers, citizens and policymakers understand that recycling is an essential activity that
19 helps ensure a world that is sustainable for an ever-growing population, and
- 20 **WHEREAS**, by utilizing recyclable materials as industrial feedstocks for the manufacturing of new materials and
21 products, Americans can each do their part to make recycling work, and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has acknowledged that recyclables and
23 materials for reuse are not solid waste, and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, the United States EPA announced in 2013 that it is transitioning to a focus on Sustainable Materials
25 Management (SMM), which refers to the use and reuse of materials in the most productive and sustainable way
26 across their entire life cycle, and SMM conserves resources and minimizes the environmental impacts of the
27 materials we use, and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, SMM is the direction the nation and the world are moving towards in acknowledgement that
29 recyclable materials should be considered as valuable commodities, and



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30 **WHEREAS**, recyclable materials can be sold directly to a recycling operation or separated from the solid waste
31 stream and recycled, solid waste must be disposed in a landfill or incinerator, and

32 **WHEREAS**, the recycling industry directly supports 155,600 American jobs with an average wage of \$76,500.00,
33 and nearly 379,000 American jobs are indirectly tied to the recycling of valuable materials which help grow the
34 economy and protect the environment, and

35 **WHEREAS**, the term “waste” has legal and regulatory implications for business operations, making recycling more
36 costly and discouraging entities from engaging in the business of recycling.

37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NLGA recognizes the multiple benefits of recycling, including
38 energy savings, environmental preservation, sustainability, and economic development, among others.

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA understands the complex nature of the recycling industry,
40 including the multifaceted environmental, international trade, and small business perspectives.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA recognizes that recycling protects the environment by conserving
42 energy and the states’ natural resources.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA applauds efforts that treat recyclable materials as valuable
44 commodities used for manufacturing which supports tens of thousands of American jobs.

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA will be an engaged forum for collaboration among states to pursue
46 SMM that recognizes the importance of recycling and that recyclable materials such as metals, paper, plastic, glass,
47 rubber, and textiles that are recycled directly as a viable commercial feedstock or commodity should not be, deemed
48 to be solid waste.

ADOPTED, this day, the 19th day of July, 2019.

Sponsors: Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes (D – Wisconsin), Secretary of State Ed Buchanan (R – Wyoming), Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz (D – Connecticut), Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney (D – Montana), Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Gov. John Fetterman (D – Pennsylvania), Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib (D – Washington), Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul (D- New York), Lt. Gov. Kate Marshall (D – Nevada), Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer (R – Alaska), Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana), Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers (D – Kansas), Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton (D – Illinois)