



Reference: 351408

DEC 18 2019

Ken Gillis, Chair
Thompson–Nicola Regional District
and Co-Signers
300-465 Victoria Street
Kamloops BC V2C 2A9

Sent via email: admin@tnrd.ca

Dear Chair Gillis and Co-Signers:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2019, requesting the inclusion of packaging and paper products (PPP) from the industrial, commercial and institutional sector (ICI) in the Recycling Regulation (the regulation). I commend you for your collaboration with other local governments to provide a unified voice to the ministry.

I appreciate your support for British Columbia's extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework. I have heard from many local governments, including several at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Conference, regarding the ICI sector experiencing the negative impacts of foreign import restrictions and constrained recycling markets.

B.C.'s EPR approach provides flexibility to industry, significantly reduces costs to all levels of government and achieves strong environmental and waste diversion outcomes. The system has also proven to be successful in difficult periods of low commodity value and limited markets. This model allows for economies of scale and province-wide consistency, more control over the quality of material collected and increased ability to process many types of material locally.

To clarify some of the concerns noted in your letter, Recycle BC members only pay fees for PPP supplied to residents and for the portion of PPP supplied to the ICI sector that may end up in the residential collection system (for example, the 15 percent of all take-out food packaging that may find its way into the household blue box). Furthermore, this EPR program has led to more PPP material on the open market, not less, with Recycle BC regularly tendering all commercial processing services.

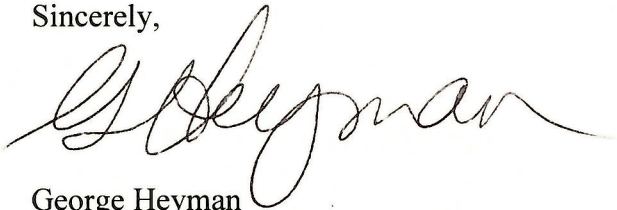
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As you are aware the Province recently held a consultation and engagement process for the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan. Over 35,000 British Columbians participated in the consultation process, sharing their opinions in an online survey and/or by providing a written submission. Ministry staff are currently developing a "What We Heard" report and working to determine the appropriate policy or regulatory responses, with the expectation to publish the report this winter.

Earlier this year, the ministry also undertook research and focused engagement concerning additional products that may prove suitable to manage under the regulation. This work will help inform the ministry on product or material gaps, including how recycling in the ICI sector is currently managed. Any work to explore regulatory amendments involving ICI materials would be accompanied by further consultation in advance of any such changes.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Heyman', written in a cursive style.

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Kevin Acton, Chair, Regional District of North Okanagan
Patrick Brabazon, Chair, qathet Regional District
Rob Gay, Chair, Regional District of East Kootenay
Philip Germuth, Chair, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
Gail Given, Chair, Regional District of Central Okanagan
Andrew Hory, Chair, Regional District of Mount Waddington
Art Kaehn, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
Karla Kozakevich, Chair, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Rhona Martin, Chair, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Barry Pages, Chair, North Coast Regional District
Tony Rainbow, Chair, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Roly Russell, Chair, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
Gerry Thiessen, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Ian Thorpe, Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo
Margo Wagner, Chair, Cariboo Regional District
Aimee Watson, Chair, Regional District of Central Kootenay
Bob Wells, Chair, Comox Valley Regional District