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FPA and PSI Reach Agreement on Legislative Elements of an EPR Bill for Packaging and Paper Products *Includes eight legislative elements of highest priority for FPA members*

Annapolis, MD: December 7, 2020 – Today, the Flexible Packaging Association (FPA), the leading advocate and voice for the growing U.S. flexible packaging industry, and the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), a leader of the U.S. product stewardship movement, announced an agreement on eight legislative elements of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) bill for packaging and paper products (PPP).

This shared vision for a packaging EPR program that includes flexibles was developed through a year-long dialogue designed and facilitated by PSI. The FPA/PSI dialogue marks the first time in the U.S. that producers of flexible packaging, state and local government agencies, environmental groups, and recyclers have collaborated to develop a legislative framework for packaging EPR.

“Flexible packaging has many attributes that make it environmentally preferable, but it has limited opportunities for collection and recycling at its end-of-life. FPA needed a platform to educate policy-makers and ensure that any extended producer responsibility legislation in the U.S. for packaging provided an on-ramp for the circularity of flexible packaging,” said Alison Keane, Esq., IOM, CAE, and President and CEO of the FPA.

“Municipalities face skyrocketing recycling costs to manage an ever more complex packaging waste stream over which they have no control,” said Scott Cassel, PSI’s Chief Executive Officer and Founder. “With this agreement, FPA member companies and PSI member governments, companies, and organizations have started down a path together to provide desperately needed fiscal relief for municipalities while fixing and expanding our national reuse and recycling system.”

Participants reached agreement on eight legislative elements of the highest priority for FPA and its members, including the types of packaging to be included in legislation, entities from which packaging would be collected, and the definition of producers, who are legally responsible. Agreement was also reached on funding for collection, transportation, and processing of packaging for reuse and recycling, public education, and government oversight. Participants agreed that

funding should go towards system changes needed to recycle flexible packaging, as well as paying for litter abatement and prevention programs, and not to manage garbage and disposal systems. How to set performance targets and recycling goals were also outlined, as were financial incentives for producers to make more sustainable packaging, including the use of recycled content.

Prior to discussing legislative elements, PSI first helped participants reach agreement on four foundational aspects, including the benefits of flexible packages, a multi-faceted problem statement, and detailed attributes of a sustainable system for managing flexible packaging. Dialogue participants included FPA member companies; PSI state and local government agencies from states that introduced or were developing EPR legislation; statewide environmental groups; and recyclers. The dialogue process included stakeholder interviews, web-based calls, and a two-day in-person meeting, and was designed to identify the most important priorities in managing flexible packaging waste, as well as unique challenges and opportunities, from manufacturing and design to post-consumer collection, reuse, and recycling.

“Dialoguing with the Product Stewardship Institute, which represents the state and local governments, among others, contemplating this legislation, is a process that brings those policy-makers together through one organization. Other packaging supply chain organizations should be doing the same so that industry can shape legislation that provides for needed recycling infrastructure for all packaging types in the U.S.,” said Keane.

PSI and FPA representatives have also met with individual local and state government officials developing EPR for PPP bills. PSI will continue to facilitate these FPA state-by-state conversations, using these elements as a reference and discussion tool.

For more information, please visit www.flexpack.org and www.productstewardship.us.

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About the Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)

The [Flexible Packaging Association](http://www.flexpack.org) is the voice of the U.S. manufacturers of flexible packaging and their suppliers. The association’s mission is connecting, advancing, and leading the flexible packaging industry. Flexible packaging represents over \$33 billion in annual sales in the U.S. and is the second largest and one of the fastest growing segments of the packaging industry. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of those materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products.

About the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)

The [Product Stewardship Institute](http://www.productstewardship.us) safeguards the welfare of people and the planet by minimizing the health, safety, and environmental impacts that result when consumer products and packaging enter the waste stream. PSI is a convener, reaching across boundaries between the public and private sectors. Together with hundreds of government agency members and more than 120 partners (businesses, NGOs, and academics), we research, design, implement, evaluate, and promote producer responsibility laws and voluntary programs that solve recycling and waste management issues to create a circular economy.