



June 30, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone
2107 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rogers
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chair Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rogers:

Thank you for hosting the June 30 hearing entitled, “No Time to Waste: Solutions for America’s Broken Recycling System,” and your leadership to-date on national recycling issues. We recognize that an improved recycling system has the potential to dramatically change how the United States manages its waste, which will have far-reaching, positive impacts on our economy and environment.

Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA) member companies Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA and Unilever United States have each made extensive investments and commitments to make consumer product packaging more sustainable and transition to a circular economy. Within our own companies, we are investing in improving recycling systems around the world, innovating our packaging design, and collaborating with suppliers, local communities and retail customers to advance forward-looking solutions that help our consumers make a difference and impact the planet. Ultimately, we know that it is essential for stakeholders to come together to make end-to-end system changes that will truly transform our waste management system into a circular economy.

Our work is more effective when undertaken together. As part of our advocacy as SFPA, we have outlined our commitments and goals in a set of [Packaging and Recycling Policy Priorities](#). These priorities aim to shift away from the status quo and toward a waste and recycling future where companies like ours can set and meet ambitious goals to integrate post-consumer recycled content (PCR) into our packaging, consumers are educated to better navigate their local recycling systems, and we can all be better stewards of the environment. Our main priorities are as follows:

1. *Improving Access to Recycling*: Adopt policy measures to improve effectiveness of recycling systems to achieve increased recycling rates, decreased landfilling, and price parity of recycling and disposal. Areas of focus for state and local governments should include disposal surcharges, accurate product and bin labeling, infrastructure investments, resources and support for community collection, and expanded recycling education.
2. *Transforming waste management to a circular system*: Ensure a nationally consistent, economy-wide approach to packaging life cycle management by establishing a national extended producer responsibility (EPR) program, which functions as a public-private partnership that can make recycling infrastructure improvements to drive the transition to a circular economy. Funds would be derived from eco-modulated fees collected from brand owners and distributed toward recycling system improvements based on a quantitative analysis of community needs.

3. *Establishing Consistent Standards and Enhance Measurement:* Federal and local governments can lead the way to prioritize recycling, increase collection, and decrease contamination by setting more consistent standards for accepted materials across regions and collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on U.S. recycling operations. Together, these actions will improve sortation and capture across the board, provide important data to target investments, and accelerate the move towards a more circular economy for paper and packaging materials.

To achieve these priorities, we believe the development of a national EPR framework is necessary – including harmonization between federal and state governance as well as consistency in scope and definitions. SFPA member companies participate in EPR programs globally, and we have used that experience to identify our [policy priorities for an effective U.S. EPR program](#). We look forward to working with your staff to share our global learnings on these topics and ensure that any legislation moves the U.S. forward toward a better, more circular recycling system.

We appreciate your work on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to continue to improve recycling in the United States.

Sincerely,

