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March 25, 2009

Honorable Bart Gordon, Chair  
House Committee on Science and Technology  
2306 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for Electronic Waste Research and Development Act, H.R. 1580

Dear Representative Gordon:

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) strongly supports H.R. 1580, the Electronic Waste Research and Development Act, since it will bring critically needed resources to help solve one of the most vexing 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges – the enormous proliferation of hazardous electronic waste (e-waste) throughout the U.S. as well as throughout the world.

As the findings of the bill point out, the growth of e-waste is staggering and continues to expand. In spite of the good progress being made to develop a robust e-waste infrastructure in the U.S. to adequately address this challenge this growth has not kept pace with the rapid pace of product obsolescence. The bill further recognizes that there is a substantial benefit to be gained through an ambitious research and development initiative that will bring together public-private consortia to help alleviate these problems throughout the entire life cycle of electronics production, use, re-use and end of life. The focus on better design as well as the recognition that we also need to extend the life of electronic products are important elements of the bill.

PSI supports the Electronic Waste Engineering Research, Development and demonstration project grants and believes that the key areas of research that have been identified will generate significant results that will help to promote an expanding and more responsible domestic e-waste industry, will bring technical resources forward that will help to solve many problems at the “front end” through improved product design, and will also help to create significant job growth in the U.S. that will have the added benefit of reducing the amount of e-waste that is

currently being exported to developing countries.

We applaud the Committee for developing this bill and support you in your efforts to bring its vision into reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Schrack".

James L. Schrack  
Director, Product Sustainability  
Product Stewardship Institute  
10170 Charissglen Lane  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

303-470-3109 office  
303-434-2332 cellular