



March 25, 2025

Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee

Re: Senate Bill 61, Electronic Device Recycling

Dear Co-Chairs Olson, Hoffman, Stedman, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes in opposition to Senate Bill 61, an act relating to an electronic product stewardship program; relating to collection, recycling, and disposal of electronic equipment; establishing the electronics recycling advisory council; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

Senate Bill 61 proposes the creation of a statewide electronics recycling program. While we support responsible recycling efforts and environmental stewardship, SB 61 places an unreasonable and costly burden on manufacturers and, ultimately, on Alaska consumers and businesses. As written, this bill would establish one of the most burdensome and expensive electronics recycling programs in the nation—without adequate consideration of Alaska's unique logistical and infrastructure challenges.

Unlike other states that have implemented electronics recycling by leveraging existing municipal and nonprofit infrastructure, Alaska lacks the collection and processing capabilities to support the demands of SB 61. There are currently no certified electronics recyclers in the state, meaning collected devices would need to be shipped to the Lower 48, significantly increasing costs. The inclusion of items like microwave ovens and broad categories such as all "battery-containing electronics" expands the program far beyond what current recycling systems are equipped to handle.

In addition, the expectation that manufacturers form a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) or conduct multiple collection events in communities with little to no existing infrastructure is impractical and cost-prohibitive. Retailers would also be required to share recycling information for potentially dozens of manufacturer-run programs—an unmanageable task for small businesses already operating with limited resources. SB 61 also proposes the creation of an Electronics Recycling Advisory Council, a layer of bureaucracy that may be unnecessary given that most states manage oversight through existing environmental agencies.

Without a detailed, statewide assessment of e-waste volumes, existing infrastructure, and community capacity, SB 61 asks manufacturers to build an entire system from scratch—at significant cost. These costs will inevitably be passed down to Alaskan consumers and businesses, effectively creating a new, hidden tax during a time of economic uncertainty.

We urge lawmakers to pause on advancing SB 61 and instead work with stakeholders to develop a more reasonable, phased approach that considers Alaska's unique geography, population distribution, and



2550 Denali Street, Suite 530  
Anchorage, AK 99503



Office (907) 278-2722



[www.alaskachamber.com](http://www.alaskachamber.com)  
[info@alaskachamber.com](mailto:info@alaskachamber.com)

current waste management capabilities. We welcome further dialogue and encourage the Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a statewide survey to better understand Alaska's e-waste landscape before moving forward with a program of this magnitude.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 61 and urge lawmakers to reconsider its passage. Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kati Capozzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kati Capozzi  
President and CEO