



May 5, 2023

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Capito, Carper and Boozman:

We write to express our support for S. 1189, the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2023, and commend you for sponsoring this bipartisan legislation. The pilot program provided for in this bill would help improve recycling accessibility in underserved communities through investments in infrastructure.

Retailers share your desire to make it easier to recycle products and product packaging. NRF members are exploring a variety of strategies including:

- Promoting the use of the How2Recycle label, a standardized labeling system that provides consumers with information to properly recycle products and packaging.
- Piloting in-store recycling take-back programs where they make environmental, logistical and financial sense for products ranging from beverage containers to fashion and electronics.
- Transitioning product packaging to materials that are easier to recycle.

In addition, retailers are helping to create markets for recovered materials by selling and marketing products made from recycled materials. Closing the recycling loop is one part of broader retailer efforts to grow a more sustainable and circular economy.

We regularly conduct surveys on consumer attitudes and preferences on a variety of topics. Our March survey focused on consumer recycling preferences. Among the questions we asked was the following: “How would you prefer to recycle bottles and cans?” An overwhelming majority – 90% -- of survey respondents indicated an interest in recycling bottles and cans, and 79% indicated they prefer either placing recyclables at the curb in a recycling bin (55%) or taking them to a community recycling center (24%).

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The Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility pilot program created by your legislation would allow community grant recipients to use grant funds for, among other options, expansion of curbside recycling. We think your bill is smart policy because it meets people where they are and will encourage consumers to engage in behavior they are already inclined to favor.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "F".

David French  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations

cc: Senate Environment & Public Works Committee members