



City of Cambridge

R-50.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 8, 2002

VICE MAYOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR DECKER
 COUNCILLOR MAHER
 COUNCILLOR MURPHY
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
 MAYOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: Discarded electronic products, including computer monitors, televisions, and others are an increasing problem for cities and towns in Massachusetts who have to deal with more than 75,000 tons of electronic waste each year, which is expected to increase to 300,000 tons each year by 2005; and
- WHEREAS: Discarded electronic products contain lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polyvinyl chloride, brominated flame retardant, and other toxic materials that can pose hazards to human health and the environment when landfilled or incinerated; and
- WHEREAS: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on April 1, 2000, because of the toxicity of this waste, prohibited the disposal of discarded cathode ray tubes (CRTs), such as those found in television and computer monitors, in municipal landfills or incinerators, which has increased local government costs for recycling discarded CRTs; and
- WHEREAS: Massachusetts residents generate an estimated 6 pounds per year of household hazardous products, such as paint, septic cleaners, pesticides, fingernail polish, and shoe polish and Massachusetts cities and towns spend thousands of dollars each year for collection events to divert these household hazardous products from disposal; and
- WHEREAS: The costs incurred by Massachusetts cities and towns for disposal of products that contain toxics, particularly electronic products and household hazardous products, are in effect unfounded mandates imposed by the producers of such products to local taxpayers, which takes funds away from other needed local government programs, such as schools, fire protection, emergency services, and police; and
- WHEREAS: Producer take back requirements, which have been adopted in many countries across the world, will shift the burden of disposal costs for electronic and household products from local taxpayers back to the producers, internalizing these costs and giving a market incentive to design products that are durable, less toxic, and recyclable; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of House Bill 4716, *An Act to Require the Take Back of Used Cathode Ray Tubes*; and be it further

R-541

RESOLUTION #50

Support of House bill 4716, An Act to
Require the Take Back of Used
Cathode Ray Tubes.
**Vice Mayor Davis, Councillors
Galluccio and Decker**

In City Council April 8, 2002

ORDER ADOPTED.