



Massachusetts Joins Northeast States Considering Electronic Equipment Recycling

States eye manufacturer/producer responsibility on the issue of Electronic Equipment Recycling.

Deborah Monosson, President and CEO of Boston Financial & Equity Corporation (BFEC), provided Equipment Leasing & Finance Association (ELFA) member testimony on electronic recycling as Massachusetts joined other Northeast states considering legislation. An independent lessor, BFEC is a 39 year old company that leases to “higher risk” credits—primarily early stage and emerging growth companies backed by either Angel investors or Venture Capitalists. Monosson testified manufacturers of technology equipment financed by her company express willingness to take responsibility for their products. This is welcomed as upfront recycling fees, such as the one enacted by California are not, in her opinion, a fair vehicle for collecting this tax.



Deborah Monosson, President and CEO, Boston Financial & Equity Corporation (BFEC), provided industry testimony on electronic recycling as Massachusetts considers legislation.

Another association member volunteering to attend meetings with Massachusetts policymakers together with ELFA Vice President for State Government Relations Dennis Brown was Thomas Thornton of BTMU Capital Corporation. Involvement such as Thornton’s makes equipment leasing and finance capabilities available to industries that establish state associations with lobbyists. Most state capitols retain 5 lobbyists and and close to \$130,000 per state legislator that is expended

by organizations concerned with public policy. With equipment lessors lacking state associations that can employ lobbyists continuously, the Equipment Leasing & Finance Association provides a platform for the voice of industry in state capitols.

California was the first state to enact an electronic recycling statute but four states that subsequently passed legislation examined and rejected the California program as a model. Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington all turned aside the Advanced Recovery Fee in favor of various forms of producer responsibility. With Texas and Oregon expected to follow this example of implementing producer responsibility, multiple organizations representing state legislators on a national and regional basis have decided to examine proposals for funding the recycling and environmentally safe disposal of electronic equipment.

Currently, a Massachusetts committee is examining electronic recycling with the active participation of ELFA and an additional committee comprised of representatives from ten states. This ten state committee voted not to duplicate the California Electronic Waste Recycling Act, recommending instead that uniformity between Northeast states could best be achieved through manufacturer/producer responsibility. ELFA collaborated in discussions relating to leasing provisions of that recommendation.

The Massachusetts committee is in the process of merging the language of competing proposals to draft a single bill expected to be based on producer responsibility. For email updates on these hearings as well as electronic recycling activities nationwide, send a request with your complete contact information to ELFA Vice President, State Government Relations Dennis Brown at dbrown@elfaonline.org. 

