



Prince William County Government  
Board of County Supervisors



# ***Update on Enhancing Producer Responsibility Requirements in Virginia***

VRA Annual Meeting  
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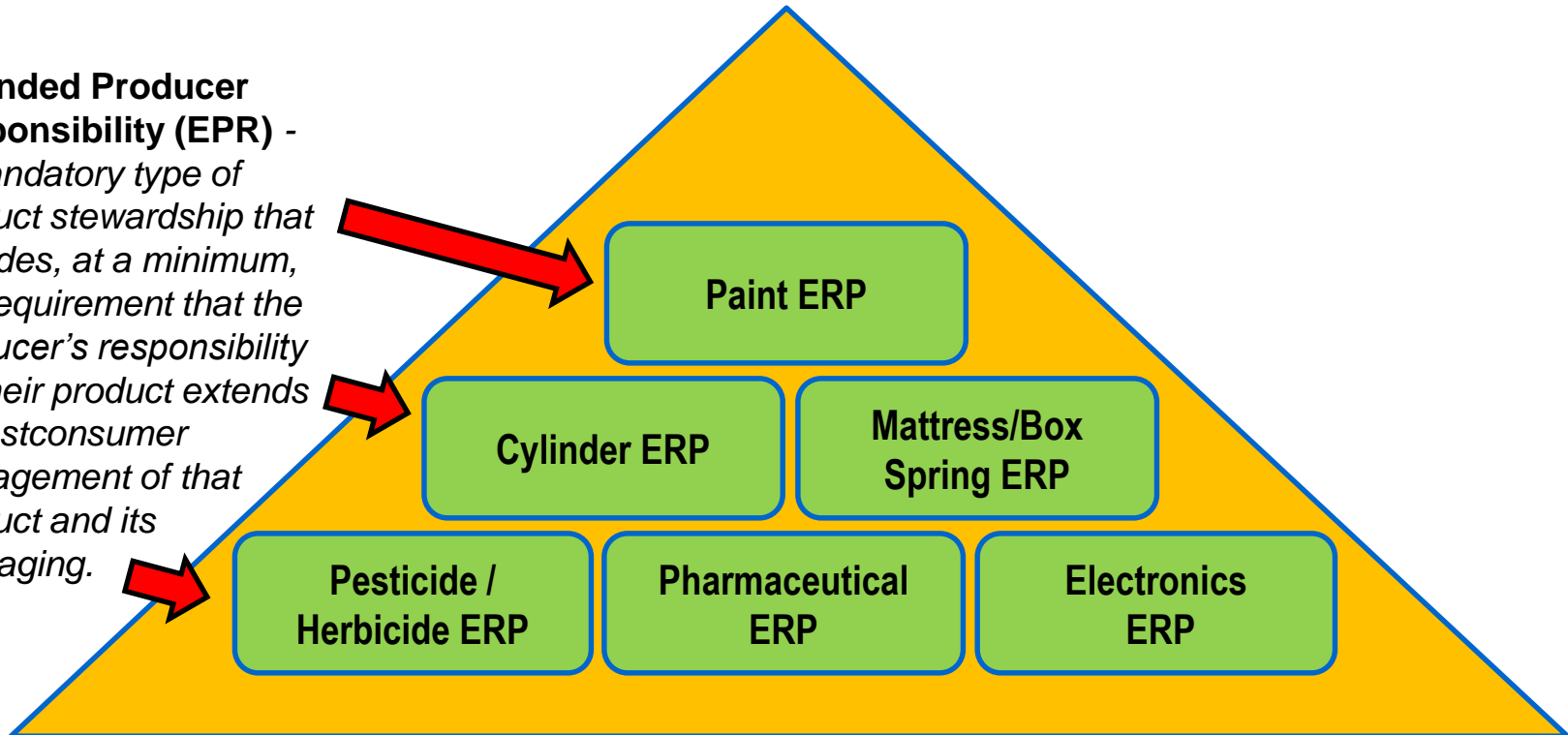
# Product Stewardship vs. Extended Producer Responsibility



Product Stewardship - The act of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts, and maximizing economic benefits of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages. The producer of the product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers, and consumers, also play a role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.

## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) -

*A mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to postconsumer management of that product and its packaging.*



# Why Extended Producer Responsibility?



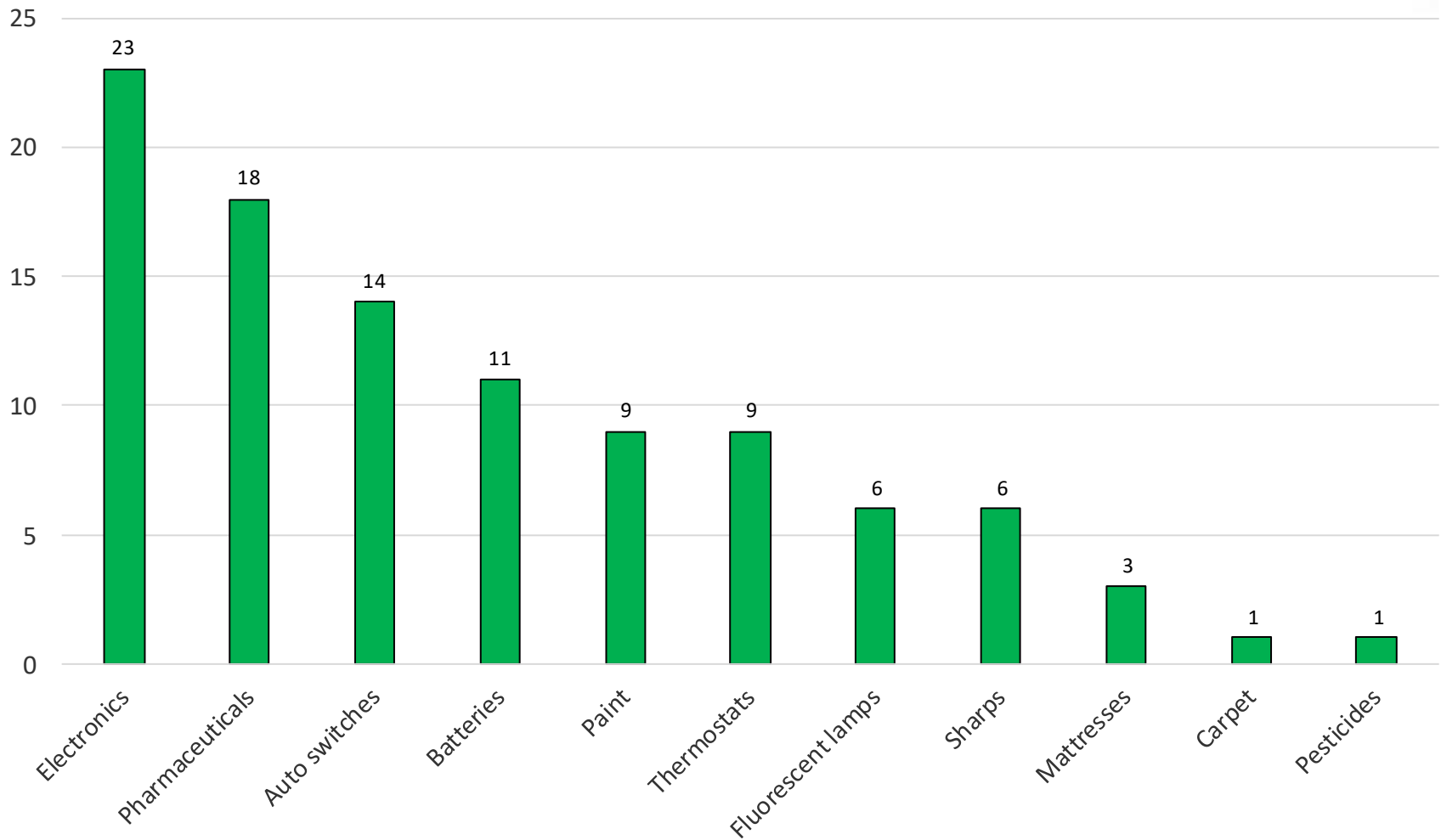
## Principals of EPR:

- **Producer Responsibility**
- **Level the Playing Field**
- **Results-Based**
- **Transparency and Accountability**
- **Shared Responsibility:**
  - ◆ **Government**
  - ◆ **Retailers**
  - ◆ **Consumers**

**Source:** Jointly developed by the Product Policy Institute (Upstream), the Product Stewardship Institute and the California Product Stewardship Council.



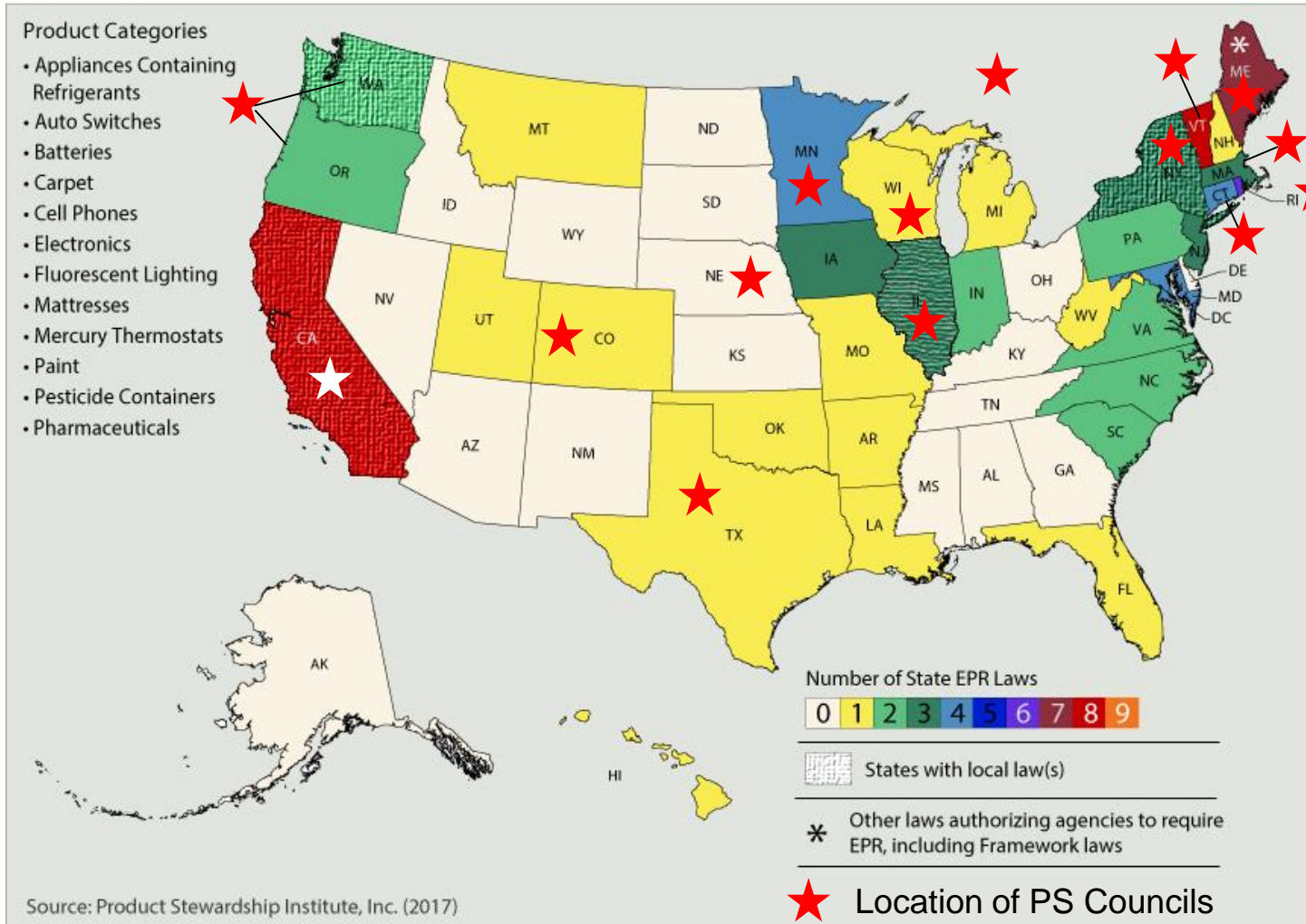
# EPR Laws by Product in the U.S.



Source: Product Stewardship Institute



# EPR Laws in the United States





# EPR in Virginia



- HB 447 (2006) - certification by vehicle demolishers of removal of mercury switches in motor vehicles prior to demolition.
  - This law may have expired in 2012.
- HB 344 (2008) – requires the manufacturers certain computer equipment to adopt and implement a recovery plan providing for the reasonably convenient, collection, recycling and reuse of certain computer equipment returned by a consumer in the Commonwealth.
  - HB 344 is an example of a so-called “Dell bill,” which are based on model legislation proposed by the Texas-based computer maker.
  - The Virginia law does not mandate any particular level of performance.
  - Virginia ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> from last out of the 23 states with electronics EPR legislation.
  - The Electronics Take Back Coalition studied the 25 states with electronics ERP legislation and developed a list of “best practices.”
  - These best practices could be used to evaluate the existing Virginia law and make recommendations for improvements to the law.



# Recent interest in EPR in the Region



- Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- January 2017 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Recycling Committee Meeting discussed Product Stewardship
- February Conference Call – DC Region
- VRA 2017 Annual Conference Session (May)
- NVRC “Difficult to Manage” Survey (May)



# Difficult to Manage Survey Results



- We received 56 responses—4 regional organizations, 9 counties, 8 towns or independent cities and 1 institution
  - ◆ *74% collect HHW and electronics for recycling*
- HHW Program Cost: \$2,695,711
  - ◆ *21 programs reporting*
- E-waste Recycling Program Cost: \$1,122,850
  - ◆ *15 programs reporting*
- 84% would like to see more manufacture, distributor, and retailer involvement in Virginia
  - ◆ *Only 52% felt there should be a organization devoted to PS*
- **Top Materials:** 1) Paint; 2) Cylinders; 3) Mattress/Box; 4) Pesticides/Herbicides, and; 5) Pharmaceuticals





# Advice from Product Stewardship Councils



- Pull together a group and start holding regular quarterly or monthly calls
- Consider creating a committee within the umbrella of an existing organization (VRA, SWANA Old Dominion, etc.)
- Focus on 1-2 materials and see what you can get done
- Get the “facts” out about problem products and help build consensus
- Over time we could develop a work plan, educate legislators, gather baseline data and initiate studies that could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of any future EPR laws
- Consider a statewide or regional Product Stewardship Council





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# Thank you!

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