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**REF: P-05-750**

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair – Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales)

6<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Dear Mike Hedges AM,**

We would like to thank the Committee for taking the time, at your meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, to debate the Marine Conservation Society's petition P-05-750: *For single use items - introduce a Deposit Return System for drinks containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable.*

We are pleased that the Committee has received direct correspondence (letter reference: LG/00640/17) from the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, outlining her plans to commission a study looking at the feasibility of increasing waste reduction in Wales through Extending Producer Responsibility schemes. We are also looking forward to seeing the review of the Wales Waste Strategy: Towards Zero Waste, which has been undertaken and will be reported on in the summer.

We note that the Welsh Government will be spending time between summer 2017 and summer 2018 evaluating evidence presented within these reviews, with a view to holding a formal consultation on a refresh of the Wales Waste Strategy in summer 2018.

We would be grateful if the Committee could seek further clarification from the Cabinet Secretary that:

- 1) The review of Zero Waste Wales and study into EPR will focus on 'cradle to cradle' solutions to ensure Wales move towards a circular economy;
- 2) These reviews include an evaluation of the prospects of introducing a Deposit Return System in Wales, and an assessment of the necessary legislation required;
- 3) Any cost benefit analysis on new waste prevention measures takes into account the Wellbeing Goals, in particular a Resilient Wales and a Globally Responsible Wales, ensuring that any short term economic costs do not unduly influence long term, preventative action on waste.
- 4) That all interested stakeholders will be able to meaningfully engage with the Welsh Government in their evaluation of evidence from these reviews, between now and summer 2018, prior to formal public consultation\*.

\*We are keen for the Welsh Government to embrace the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act five Wellbeing Ways of Working, which promote involvement and collaboration between the public and public bodies. In this regard, we seek assurance from the Cabinet Secretary that there is a willingness to involve



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and collaborate with stakeholders with an interest in waste reduction in Wales, at an early stage in this evaluation process.

Yours Sincerely,

*Gill Bell*

**Gill Bell**

**Head of Conservation, Wales**

**Marine Conservation Society**

**President: HRH The Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB**

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