PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PRACTICAL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

U.S. electronics manufacturers — the vast majority being small- and medium-sized businesses— take seriously the health of their workers, their local communities, and the diverse communities that make up the supply chain. Driven by a desire to be good neighbors, to protect human health and the environment, and to achieve the quality standards demanded by their customers, electronics manufacturers have revolutionized their production processes.

In fact, advancements in electronics manufacturing have far outpaced regulatory change, making some federal rules obsolete, unnecessarily burdensome, or inordinately costly to manufacturers.

IPC specifically recommends the following efforts to ensure that all regulations are practical, cost-effective, and prioritized according to actual levels of risk.

IPC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Structure regulations to build on industry best practices**. IPC has worked closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to inform them about the chemicals and processes essential to electronics manufacturing. We have secured more effective chemical data reporting requirements, driven in part by on-site engagement between EPA and industry experts at printed circuit boards (PCB) manufacturing facilities. In addition, we have welcomed practical approaches to collecting fees to support chemical risk evaluations, again resulting from industry interaction with policymakers.

  We encourage efforts to explore how policies, best practices, standards, or regulations can be restructured to build on existing industry practices and incentivize public-private partnerships.

- **Work with industry to ensure policies and regulations are based on existing data and information**. Electronics enables innovation, and that includes advancements in greener energy and transportation. For example, electronics helps the U.S create well-paid, skilled jobs in multiple industrial sectors like clean energy. Electronics also enables communication of data throughout the supply chain, improving our understanding of life cycle environmental impacts and helping us to minimize these effects. U.S. strategies to address issues like climate change and achieving a circular economy should seek to leverage electronics, and our existing data and information, to reach these shared goals.

ESG FOR ELECTRONICS INITIATIVE

IPC recently unveiled a new Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) for Electronics Initiative to develop guidance for electronics manufacturers on an industry-specific approach to ESG practices and reporting and to develop goals that the industry is working together to achieve.

As part of this initiative, IPC has engaged electronics industry leaders and ESG experts to develop and distribute guidance on key aspects of reporting that demonstrate a commitment to ESG principles. This guidance is intended to help the industry meet ESG goals by providing industry-specific definitions, benchmarks, self-assessments and recommendations.

To build electronics better, manufacturers must do so with awareness and responsibility to ESG factors, fully integrating them into their business core. IPC's initiative will weave together existing and bold, new industry activities to support industry engagement on a range of societal concerns, including circularity and our renewed efforts towards eco-design and raw materials management.

IPC's ROLE

IPC members are committed to environmental stewardship, recognizing that proactive efforts to prevent adverse impacts to human health and the environment can reduce or eliminate business risks and the need for compliance-driven activity.

Working together creates opportunities for stronger public health protections. Our industry can provide invaluable data, insights, and information to ensure that new policies and regulatory proposals are practical, cost-effective, and prioritized according to actual levels of environmental and human health risk.

On behalf of electronics manufacturers, we look forward to working constructively with policymakers on this front and sharing our members' considerable expertise.

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