**Arizona State Senate**





# Proclamation

***WHEREAS,*** during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been essential to keep Arizona's manufacturing industry operational; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's manufacturing industry is a leader in producing steel, paper and paper products, electronics, aluminum, plastics, textiles, tires and glass, and continues to produce these materials and products that are essential to the citizens of this state, the United States and the world. Arizona's manufacturers must have a constant and reliable supply of raw materials to produce these materials and products; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's manufacturers would not have access to needed raw materials without this state's recycling industry collecting, processing and manufacturing recyclable and recovered materials into raw materials; and

***WHEREAS,*** during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has also been essential to effectively and efficiently dispose of waste from all commercial and residential sources; and

***WHEREAS,*** in recognition of these facts, Arizona's recyclers and waste haulers have been deemed essential businesses and workers from the onset of the pandemic; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's recyclers and waste haulers have followed all appropriate and required protocols and have operated safely as a result, which has protected their employees and customers; and

***WHEREAS,*** throughout the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of tons of waste items have been seamlessly disposed of, while a like amount of valuable recyclable materials, such as automobiles, scrap metal, electronics, paper, glass, plastics, rubber and textiles, have been kept out of this state's landfills and have been manufactured into valuable raw materials; and

***WHEREAS,*** those raw materials have been used by manufacturers in Arizona and throughout the world to manufacture products from toilet paper to respirators to new automobiles; and

***WHEREAS,*** the recycling industry has provided used auto parts for reuse, allowing the citizens of this state to safely and economically repair their automobiles and maintain reliable transportation throughout the pandemic; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's recycling industry has collected, repaired and redeployed tens of thousands of mobile technology devices, thereby becoming an alternative supplier to education and corporate entities. This has facilitated students' remote learning and supported working from home when international supply chains were disrupted during the pandemic; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's recycling industry has collected, sorted and reclaimed plastic products and packaging, which could be used as feedstock to manufacture products that enhance hygiene and sanitation, such as disposable hospital gowns and garbage bags; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's recycling industry has protected public health and the environment by continuing to collect and recycle scrap tires, allowing manufacturers to produce valuable rubber products, including those used in vital infrastructure projects; and

***WHEREAS,*** Arizona's recycling industry has collected, sorted and processed recovered fiber and delivered that fiber to paper, containerboard and paperboard mills where it was then used to manufacture essential consumer products, including tissue products, pulp used in diapers and other personal hygiene products, paper for communication and education, construction products and packaging for food, beverages, cleaning supplies, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment; and

***WHEREAS,*** the waste hauling industry has continued to be a critical component of maintaining and ensuring the public health through the uninterrupted and orderly disposal of waste materials.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Senate of the State of Arizona:

1. That the Members of the Senate declare that the members and employees of the recycling and solid waste disposal industries in Arizona have performed, and continue to perform, in an exemplary and critically necessary manner as essential businesses and essential employees necessary to produce and manufacture goods and products in Arizona and throughout the world and to prevent the unhealthful accumulation of waste material.

2. That the Members of the Senate commend these industries for their role in maintaining the public health, as well as the economic viability of the supply chain for Arizona's manufacturers and their employees, and markedly so during the COVID-19 pandemic.

 ***Dated this 12th Day of April 2021***

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####  **KAREN FANN**

####  **President of the Arizona State Senate**

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***DAVID GOWAN***

***State Senator, Legislative District 14***