



ISRI is the voice of the recycling industry, promoting safe, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible recycling through networking, advocacy and education.



December 16, 2020

President-Elect Joe Biden  
Office of the Presidential Transition  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President-Elect Biden:

On behalf of the nearly 165,000 workers in the Scrap Recycling Industry, we<sup>1</sup> congratulate you on becoming our nation's 46<sup>th</sup> President. We share your vision that manufacturing can be both environmentally and economically sustainable – and that vision begins with recycling.

Recycling operations are an essential element of the U.S. – and global – circular economy, supplying an average of well over 40% of raw material needs for manufacturing<sup>2</sup> and generating over \$110 billion in U.S. economic activity. The industry also contributes to global environmental stewardship by supplying about \$20 billion worth of recyclables to manufacturers in more than 150 nations around the world. Recycling is essential in meeting manufacturers' needs now and into the future for critical infrastructure, for everyday life necessities and even in the fight against the pandemic. ***Recycling is also essential towards meeting our nation's sustainability goals and fighting climate change.***

Recycling helps fight climate change by providing alternative materials used by manufacturers as a replacement for “virgin” material, thereby lowering energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Recycled metals, paper, plastics, and other recyclable commodities feed U.S. manufacturing operations that produce the rebar, wiring, tubing, packaging, and other key materials that are needed for everything from construction of roads and bridges to new hospitals. Using recycled commodities in the production of new products reduces the need to mine metal ore, cut down trees for paper, extract fossil fuels to produce plastic, and otherwise deplete our natural resources. Recycling also reduces the amount of material sent to landfill, reducing pressure on landfill capacity and its associated environmental impact.

***More recycling provides more climate benefits.*** Recyclers use energy to move and mechanically process recyclables so that they can be consumed by manufacturers and thus achieve substantial energy and emissions savings. However, a regulatory GHG constraint on recyclers' operations in isolation could result in less recycling and loss of climate benefits forever. Therefore, we seek to ensure

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<sup>1</sup> ***The Voice of the Recycling Industry:*** The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI), represents more than 1,300 private, for-profit companies operating at more than 4,000 facilities in the United States and 40 countries worldwide. ISRI members are processors, brokers, and industrial consumers of scrap commodities, including ferrous and nonferrous metals, paper, electronics, rubber, plastics, glass and textiles. [www.isri.org](http://www.isri.org)

<sup>2</sup> Globally, more than 50% of paper production are made from recovered fiber; 82% of global steel production comes from scrap; 76% of global aluminum is produced with scrap. Source: Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), [bir.org](http://bir.org).



that this supply chain continue and thereby avoid significant supply disruptions that would ripple throughout the entire U.S. and global manufacturing sectors.

For your consideration, in the United States:



We enjoy close partnerships with policymakers in both parties that have demonstrated focused commitments to advancing recycling in the United States. We work closely with EPA to bring diverse stakeholders together for collaboration on initiatives to enhance citizen participation and expand markets for recycled materials. ISRI also worked closely with Congressional authors of the “Save our Seas Act 2.0” legislation as well as the RECYCLE Act and other bills in development that also are aimed at advancing recycling. We are particularly proud to have worked closely with Senator Tom Carper more than 15 years ago to establish the Senate Recycling Caucus, which followed quickly with the creation of the House Recycling Caucus. Both continue today as a bipartisan platform for promoting recycling.

As our nation’s environmental steward, the U.S. scrap recycling industry welcomes the opportunity to work with your Administration to continue creating good-paying American jobs, supplying valuable recycled materials to manufacturers and protecting our nation’s environment through natural resource conservation, energy savings and thus, fighting climate change.

Sincerely,

Robin K. Wiener  
ISRI President

Gary Champlin  
ISRI Chair