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**Chairman, Bills Committee Waste Disposal (Municipal Solid Waste Charges)
(Amendment) Bill**

Dear Sirs,

As an academic following and studying the waste management issues in Hong Kong for over two decades, I write to sincerely urge the government and LegCo to work together to enact the captioned Bill ASAP.

In view of the worsening waste management situation in Hong Kong (i.e. (i) waste disposal rate increase, (ii) waste recycling rate decrease. (iii) diminishing landfill capacity), Hong Kong urgently needs policy and legislation measures to drive behavioural changes to achieve sustainable waste management practices. The polluter pays principle has been documented in other parts of the world can effect such changes. With the waste disposal charge, stakeholders in the waste management chain (i.e. waste producers, waste collectors, waste recyclers, and waste disposal site operators) would corresponding implement changes to reduce and recycle wastes.

Furthermore, the waste recycling industry in Hong Kong is facing many challenges, including the fall of commodity prices (e.g. crude oils for plastics) and limitations of export of recycled wastes to the Mainland. The waste disposal charge, if implemented, would provide financial incentives for new investments in the industry to achieve circular economy. It is anticipated that thousands of jobs can be saved/created in the industry which would provide many employment opportunities to the unskilled/semiskilled general public.

I understand in the midst of the pandemic, enactment of a new charging legislation may not be welcome, especially by the commercial sector. But the commencement of the Charge can be suitably adjusted to a later date (say 18-24 months time). Also, if necessary, the commencement date can be implemented in phases, say firstly for “Commercial and Industrial” wastes, and then for “Domestic” waste as the enforcement of the legislation in the latter sector is expected to be the most challenging given the hugh number and types of residential units involved.

Your faithfully,



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