

19 February 2021

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Bills Committee Chairman and Members,

Statement of Support to Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 from the Environment and Energy Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

The Environment and Energy Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong fully supports the proposed WASTE DISPOSAL (CHARGING FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018. In line, with the “polluter pays” principle, the committee believes that charging for waste is a vital component of Hong Kong’s waste management toolkit, and a proven means of driving corporate and individual waste reduction behaviour. We agree with the Government’s view, as explained in its new *Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035* (Waste Blueprint which was announced on 8 February 2021), that quantity-based waste charging is a vital component of Hong Kong’s comprehensive resource waste management strategy and a critical step towards the Government’s vision of Zero to Landfill.

For many companies it will be challenging to prepare for the MSW charging scheme. Hence, the Committee welcomes the Government’s plan to build in a period of about 12 to 18 months after the passage of the Bill to prepare for the implementation. In this respect, the Committee looks forward to supporting and working with the Government in trials and programmes that would facilitate the smooth adoption of and adaptation to MSW charging among the business sector and the wider community.

Conclusion

The British Chamber of Commerce urges the honourable members of the Bills Committee to support the passage of this Bill during this term of the Legislative Council. For queries related to this submission, please contact us at info@britcham.com.

Yours sincerely,

**Energy and Environment Committee
British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong**