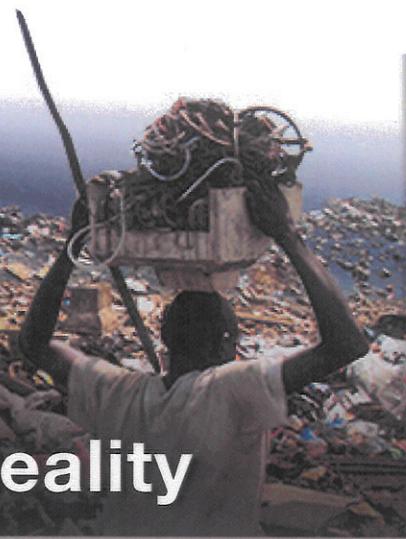




perception



reality

Supporting
The Responsible
Electronics
Recycling Act

The U.S. electronics market is the largest in the world, but the American electronics recycling industry lacks a robust domestic infrastructure—and the jobs that come with it—because of unrestricted and unfair trade in electronic scrap with developing countries. The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act, HR 2284 / S1270, will promote fair and expanded trade in electronics commodities, while allowing American recyclers to rationalize new investments in plant and personnel necessary to legitimize and grow an American industry.

Our Mission

The Coalition for American Electronics Recycling represents U.S. companies that believe electronics recycling should be performed securely and sustainably, for the benefit of the American economy. We are committed to growing an American industry with the capacity to manage the volume of e-waste generated within our borders, creating good jobs and expanded trade.

Promoting Jobs and Trade

1. The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act, by promoting fair and responsible trade, will encourage investment in new American recycling capacity.
2. Responsibly recycling electronics in America creates seven jobs for every one involved in the broker/exporter trade—a potential for tens of thousands of new, good-paying jobs created in every region of the country.
3. Fair trade in tested, working electronics and recycled commodities is not restricted. Net exports will increase with the higher prices garnered for properly separated commodities sold to global markets.
4. Broker/exporters can easily adapt their existing business models to participate in a domestic recycling market as material collectors and aggregators—with limited displacement of existing employment.

U.S. Electronics Recycling Facts

- Exported electronic scrap has been shown to be a source of counterfeit components turning up in critical applications such as military and industrial hardware.
- As amended, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) exempts scrap metal and “shredded circuit boards” from the definition of hazardous waste if recycled according to the statute. Congress provided these exemptions to encourage recycling, but the recycling industry has subverted the scrap metal exemption into a loophole which allows the export of toxic e-waste as if it were benign.
- Many U.S. companies and foreign-based organizations calling themselves electronics recyclers perform little or no recycling, but are simply materials collectors and brokers to overseas scrap buyers. Many of these fraudulently represent themselves as domestic recyclers to the marketplace.
- A majority of large U.S. businesses, and many consumers, when soliciting electronics recycling services, ask for “no export” of e-waste to developing countries. Significant demand exists today for responsible American electronics recycling.
- Investors in domestic recycling are at a financial disadvantage to broker/exporters whose overseas recyclers operate with virtually no infrastructure, and few restrictions regarding worker safety and environmental pollution. Consequently, investment in American recycling capacity is constrained, lagging far behind market demand.
- According to the EPA, the United States generated more than 3.1 million tons of ewaste in 2009. Vast amounts of strategic commodities contained in scrap electronics, including rare earths, gold, copper, and aluminum, are sold at a deep discount to the broker/exporters only to be processed overseas for sale to global markets at full value—a loss of export revenue and jobs.
- Broker/exporters often claim to provide data erasure without the capabilities to reliably do so. The export of unsanitized data bearing technology to developing countries is a persistent source of data breaches, identity theft, and cyber crime.

The Coalition for American Electronics Recycling

63 companies operating more than
125 facilities across the United States.



4115 Leap Rd. Hilliard OH 43026

www.americanerecycling.org

info@americanerecycling.org