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### **Background Information:**

As a state recycling organization (SRO), we have a diverse network of members and supporters, which ensures a strong base of knowledge and support for recycling. We are able to facilitate conversations and information sharing across multiple sectors for the furtherance of our mission, which is to increase recycling rates in Texas, for Texans. We truly believe that collaboration is the key to successful programs and initiatives, and by engaging multiple stakeholders, the recycling industry is able to create better action plans that take into account a number of different perspectives, motives, and resources. Our most recent success story was the completion of the Texas Recycling Data Initiative (TRDI), the first-ever study of its kind in Texas that assessed and quantified recycling activity and related job creation. The process of bringing the right people together, laying the groundwork, putting together plans, executing those plans, and funding the project took years and a lot of determination, but the end result was one that was completely collaborative and entirely representative of every group and every sector that deals with recycling in Texas. For STAR, creating positive and strategic partnerships that prove beneficial to all who put in the work and resources they are able to provide is the key to moving the tenants of sustainable materials management forward.

### **National SMM Plan Recommendations:**

Encourage continued/increased stakeholder engagement and more private/public/NGO partnerships that lead to:

- More national policy dialogue with strong industry representation
  - Continued EPR involvement and conversations on sustainable end-of-life management for hard-to-recycle materials
  - *Example:* PaintCare; would love to see more discussion about tires
- More resources for communities to implement programs to handle changes in our waste stream based on an overall positive/sustainable LCA
  - *Example:* Carton Council's work with MRFs and municipalities
- Standardization of information, education, and measurement that works for and makes sense to all of the stakeholders involved
  - Measurement and data collection provide validation for successful recycling programs and identify areas that need improvement
- More economic incentives and market-based solutions
  - Dialogue can shape what resources are needed on both a state and local level, as well as what challenges are specific to certain communities and regions of the country when it comes to getting material to market
  - More private/public dialogue that would help build domestic end markets, with an emphasis on the economic attraction to areas of the country (ie. job creation, increased revenue)
  - Educate local, state, and national decision makers about the value that proper resource management can provide for communities and businesses