

**Testimony of Jennifer Geiling,  
Before the New York City Council Committee on Contracts  
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing  
April 23, 2021**

Good afternoon Chair Kallos and members of the Contracts Committee. My name is Jennifer Geiling and I serve as a Deputy Director at the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS). Thank you for inviting us to speak with you today – during Earth Week - on the City's efforts to further build sustainability and environmental awareness into City functions such as procurement.

The Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) laws are a set of local laws intended to limit negative health and environmental impacts through strategic procurement sourcing and baseline purchasing standards. EPP laws address a range of issues, including waste production, energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions, indoor air quality, recycled and reused content and the presence of hazardous substances.

As we have testified previously, MOCS plays an oversight role in Citywide procurement. In this role, we have focused attention on establishing a centralized, standard and digital Procurement and Sourcing Solutions Portal (PASSPort) that incorporates and facilitates procurement rules, activities and compliance. PASSPort has enabled our agency and Citywide procurement to move away from manual, paper-based practices to automated, digital procedures. In the case of EPP Local Law 118, managing EPP compliance is now integrated into PASSPort, whereby the system prompts agencies to affirm compliance with the law, as applicable. Failure to address EPP compliance questions will block the agency from moving forward with the procurement.

This automation of practice allows our City agency partners to focus more on strategic sourcing that can further the goals of EPP laws. Here again, PASSPort – the Procurement Sourcing and Solutions Portal – is poised to be a critical tool. With more than 27,000 vendors in PASSPort, City agencies have access to a breadth of suppliers to further the intent of the EPP legislation. Additionally, PASSPort can facilitate prequalified lists that agencies may develop to further narrow in on vendors that have the ability and expertise to reach EPP goals.

MOCS' role to promulgate rules under Local Law 118 is chiefly a coordinating position. We partner with the Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability (MOS), who leads the research

effort to propose updates to the rules. Our colleagues are well-versed on prevailing and emerging environmental efforts and perfectly positioned to engage industry and policy leaders. An update to the existing standards is currently underway. MOS is supporting the analysis of current standards, which we will then collectively bring to agency stakeholders for input. Once that review has been completed, MOCS will move the rules changes through the CAPA process for public comment and finalization. Assigning MOCS the role of creating guidelines for textile purchasing under Intro. 2272 would create the same relationship – coordinating work that is really led outside our agency where the expertise exists.

Finally, Intro. 2271 and 2272 include reporting responsibilities for MOCS – another coordinating activity. MOCS has long served in central reporting roles, collecting information from the business owners – in this case contracting agencies – and consolidating into reports. In the case of Local Law 118, MOCS collects data on EPP-covered goods and construction contracts and compiles this information in the annual indicators report, using surveys that are distributed to agencies each year. As part of the publication process, MOCS works with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to gather data regarding goods contracts and compiles it along with the data on construction contracts to publish the report. This report reflects the total value of goods and construction contracts entered into by any agency that are covered by the EPP standards. With regard to the legislation introduced today, MOCS defers to its colleagues on the nature of the data points and the request for past contracting information.

However, we do want to suggest an alternative view of reporting in the age of PASSPort. The surveys and manual document submission that currently comprise the EPP reporting structure will be a thing of the past in the near future. Today, procurement is more transparent and accessible than ever before. The Public Portal hosts Citywide solicitations that may be sorted by commodity, industry and agency for review by anyone to understand how procurements are taking sustainability and environmental impact into consideration and rolling up EPP requirements and rules. PASSPort ushers in an opportunity to reconsider, streamline and enhance the data and information that traditionally was necessary to collect in an opaque

and decentralized environment. Today, we can fully maximize tools such as the PASSPort Public Portal to further highlight sustainability requirements.

Thank you for calling this hearing today – we appreciate bringing attention to environmental and sustainability concerns. We are proud that PASSPort furthers those goals by eliminating paper and delivery of hard copies of documents. I am joined by my colleagues from MOS and DCAS. We would be happy to take any questions you have at this time.



## **TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS**

**23 APRIL 2021**

Thank you, Chair Kallos and members of the Committee on Contracts. My name is Kizzy Charles-Guzman, and I am the Deputy Director for Social and Environmental Policy at the Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability. I will provide testimony on the role of our office as it relates to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing.

The Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability works across, inside, and outside of the City government to reach our OneNYC 2050 goals - namely, reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, ensuring 100% clean electricity by 2040, and achieving zero waste. We recognize that we must lead by example in large and small ways, and that includes making sure that the goods and services we purchase are as sustainable as possible. This week, for example, we announced that we will transition to an all-electric school bus fleet by 2030. In recent years, we've also implemented executive orders that reduce our purchase of unnecessary single-use plastics and commit to an all-electric City fleet by 2040. The Environmentally Preferable Purchasing ("EPP") program has been in place since 2005, and as my colleague from the Mayor's Office of Contract Services ("MOCS") described, it embeds criteria into our purchasing decisions that prioritize human and environmental health. EPP standards seek to reduce waste, energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions, and hazardous substances, and to improve indoor air quality and increase recycled and reused content.

Our office is currently working with MOCS to complete a review of the standards, as required by Local Law 118 of 2005, and MOCS plans to promulgate updates later this year. Our role is to advise MOCS on the most innovative products and approaches available in the market and to provide well-researched recommendations on any additions or changes to the standards. We research and compile the latest industry standards issued by the EPA and other governmental and non-governmental bodies, review Federal and State guidance, and evaluate other cities' and states' EPP approaches so that we can recommend ways in which the City's standards can be strengthened. We must also ensure that a minimum number of vendors is available to potentially provide a product that meets the updated standard. We plan to complete the draft recommendations by the end of this spring and deliver them to MOCS, which will then review and finalize them before initiating the CAPA process to promulgate the updated standards.

I will turn now to Introductions 2271 and 2272. We appreciate the Councilmember's focus in Introduction 2271 on expanding EPP to include new categories of goods, including types of computer equipment and furniture. We support green procurement and believe that the goals of this bill are laudable. When we review the EPP standards for updates, we consider adding new categories of goods,

and we agree that the standards should reflect the latest environmental research and state of the industry across all categories of goods. Achieving a zero waste future in the textile industry, as well as across the industries from which we procure goods, will require massive investment and transformation throughout the supply chain. As Introduction 2272 acknowledges, the research in this area is in its early stages and not enough data exists today to understand the full economic and environmental implications of transitioning to a fully circular textile system and fully circular economy. We look forward to working with the Council and environmental experts to identify ways to better understand our supply chain, embed cutting-edge sustainability practices across our purchasing, and identify approaches to increase the utilization and impact of EPP to achieve greater environmental and energy efficiency goals.

All of our actions as a City play a part in our fight against the climate crisis. Especially at the close of Earth Week, we appreciate the opportunity to discuss our efforts to improve sustainability through EPP, improving the health of our employees, our facilities, and the entirety of our supply chain. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Council on these issues.

We urgently need municipal textile recycling available to the public. Therefore, we need R+D put into mechanical and chemical recycling. Preparing a garment for recycling that has trim, labels and is made of blended fibers is time intensive. Technology can help, but similar to teaching people how to recycle plastics — clean it before you toss it — we need to teach people to remove trims and labels. It's a big ask.

There are a lot of jobs to be created around textile recycling. I know the city is aware of FabScrap <https://fabscrap.org/about>, founded by a former employee of NYC Sanitation, Jessica Schreiber. I have volunteered there several times and it is a huge undertaking. As a reminder, FabScrap serves the garment industry which is laden with unusable samples and fabric swatches.

Simultaneous to establishing textile recycling, textiles purchased by the city for uniforms, interiors (office and e-autos) should be thoroughly vetted to be sustainably grown and made — from the farmer to the spinner, dyer and the manufacturer. Ideally, textiles would come from regional (North America) suppliers to have a smaller footprint and support North American products.

It is key to avoid virgin polyesters (all synthetics) as they are 'forever fabrics' — they never degrade. Polyester sheds microfibers, similar to plastics shedding microplastics. This shedding happens during the making of polyester into a fabric and every time it is machine washed and dried. Polyesters and plastics are not sustainable materials.

If synthetics are absolutely necessary, they should be recycled fibers.

My background:

I have been a fashion designer for 25 years. I've seen first hand the waste created from this industry. We've created a consumer appetite that has led to overconsumption brought on by super cheap prices and frequent drops. The unrealistic prices from some of these brands do not represent the true cost of making a fabric and then cutting and sewing it into a garment. Fast Fashion gave us disposable clothing — an 80s phenomenon which is still with us today.

There is a movement in the fashion industry to slow down and produce less and make sustainably. There is a lot of talk about shortening supply chains and transparency. But until the pandemic is passed, we won't truly know how this plays out.

In the meantime, Marie Kondo and the Kondo affect has encouraged people to throw out anything that does not spark joy. Great for their homes but not great for the environment. We saw a tremendous increase in clothing and home items being tossed to the curb. My hope is that consumers will re-learn how to shop and only buy what sparks joy and then keep it for at least 5-10 years.

Currently a Fashion Design Specialist for Material Innovation Initiative [materialinnovation.org](http://materialinnovation.org). MII is creating an eco-system for scientists, entrepreneurs, investors and brands to accelerate the development of sustainable materials for apparel, home and the auto industry. Additionally I advise small fashion brands on sustainability.

Thank you for this opportunity.

**Thomasine Dolan Dow**

# Re:Source(d)

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tara St James, I am a sustainability consultant with over 20 years experience in the fashion industry. My specific area of expertise is in sustainable textile sourcing and supply chain management. I also work as an educator at the Fashion Institute of Technology where I teach a class on sustainable textile sourcing.

The textile industry has found itself at a turning point, operating within a fragile ecosystem which is contributing to elevated GHG emissions and forced labor conditions, the fragility of the textile supply chain has been put under a spotlight during the covid pandemic. This interconnectedness of the industry is particularly evident in the textiles sector. Raw materials are derived from plants, animal fibers, and fossil fuel products, supporting livelihoods for many but also risking negative impacts on health and ecosystems through pollution, unsustainable land use, and climate change. At the same time, the favorable growing conditions, reliable rainfall, and fertile soils that so many farmers, companies, and consumers depend on are at risk of collapse or simply will not recover and regenerate.

I'm writing this letter as testimony in support of the legislation to strengthen the city's environmental purchasing laws, in particular to support more environmentally preferable purchasing of textiles by city agencies including uniforms, clothing accessories, upholstered furnishings, etc...

It has become increasingly important that purchasing bodies, including government organizations, understand the origins of their purchases and have full transparency in the textile supply chain of any materials being acquired. To this point, I recommend that the city documents the following information for all fiber-based purchasing:

- Be able to categorize material types being ordered
- Know what fiber types are used in the all categories (polyester, nylon, cotton, etc...)?
- Know the breakdown in detailed percentage for all blended textiles
- Where are textiles being produced?
- Where are they being processed (cut, sewn, applied to end us)?
- The average lifespan of these textiles (how long are they in use before being replaced)?
- Is there a system in place to recover above textiles for disposal or recycling?
- Have end of use solutions for all categories of textiles (including reuse, repair, recycling or downcycling)

I fully support this legislation and recommend that the city establish a task force to recommend legislation and policy for environmentally preferable purchasing, use and disposal of such textiles.

Regards,



**Tara St James**  
**Owner / Re:Source(d)**

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**Urban Green Council Testimony  
Before the New York City Council Committee on Contracts  
Re: Int. No. 2271**

**April 23, 2021**

Dear Chair Kallos and Committee members:

My name is Chris Halfnight and I am Associate Director of Policy at Urban Green Council. Urban Green is an environmental non-profit dedicated to transforming buildings for a sustainable future in New York City and around the world.

I'm testifying today in support of Int. No. 2271, which seeks to update the City's environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) law. Thank you to the Chair, the Committee and the dedicated staff at the City Council for bringing much-needed attention to this important and impactful policy.

Urban Green has a long history supporting the EPP policy. Russell Unger, our former Executive Director, led drafting of the law while working at the City Council over 15 years ago, and then spent one year implementing the law working at the Mayor's Office of Contract Services.

More recently, in 2016 and 2017 we collaborated with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, the Department of Sanitation and the Center for Environmental Health on recommendations for a long-overdue update to the rules that implement the EPP law. Urban Green advised on provisions related to buildings, including those focused on energy efficiency, water efficiency and building materials. To my knowledge, nearly five years later, none of the many recommendations put forth have been implemented.

The City's green purchasing power is important in several ways. First, the sheer quantity of public procurement translates to a significant environmental footprint. Every dollar that preferences a good with lower environmental impact benefits all New Yorkers. Second, the City's purchases create more demand for greener products, boosting the market for these products and helping to bring them to scale. Third, with green purchasing, the City leads by example and inspires action in other cities and states, as well as the private sector.

The EPP law requires regulations to implement the environmental procurement standards, and it also requires periodic updates to those regulations as products and environmental purchasing



standards evolve. It has now been almost a decade since those regulations have been updated – a gap that falls far short of the law’s intent.

With that history in mind, we applaud the Committee’s effort to update the EPP law. In particular, we support the proposed amendments to modernize the purpose of the procurement standards to include achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, eliminating waste and increasing recyclable materials.

We also offer the following specific comments for the Committee’s consideration:

1. Given the history of infrequent updates, we support the proposed increase in reporting requirements to provide explanation and transparency around the mandatory bi-annual review of the environmental purchasing standards.
2. We are glad to see the proposed integration of the federal EPEAT standards for computer products. We encourage the Committee to consider if a higher specification is feasible, such as EPEAT Gold or Silver, or to structure the amendment to require the director to implement the highest standard deemed feasible after review. Some leading jurisdictions have opted for EPEAT Gold or Silver, including [Washington, D.C.](#)
3. We support the addition of environmentally preferable furniture standards and the alignment of those standards with existing industry standards and ecolabels to ensure the easiest and most effective implementation.
4. We suggest developing standards for a small number of additional products with significant environmental impact, either in the law itself or by requiring the director to develop standards through the regulations. Specifically, we urge consideration of (i) cement standards, such as maximum cement content or minimum cement substitute content, for non-structural pre-cast concrete units and bagged concrete mixes, which can significantly lower the GHG impact of concrete, (ii) products that meet the US EPA’s WaterSense label for water efficiency, and (iii) recycled content requirements for carpet, ceiling tile and wallboard.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. I am available to answer any questions.

**CONTACT:**

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## Testimony regarding Bill ref: T2021-7395

My name is Emma Hakansson, I am the Founder and Director of the non for profit named Collective Fashion Justice. Our mission is to create a total ethics fashion system, one which values the safety and life of humans, non-humans and the planet, before profit and production. We refer to a 'total ethics fashion system', rather than to 'ethical fashion', as too often the latter phrase is used in a way which lacks intersectionality of issue – when we speak of justice, we truly mean it to be for everyone.

I'd like to thank the New York City Council for discussing such an important topic as fashion, by introducing this Bill, referenced today (April 21) as T2021-7395. Fashion is so often seen as frivolous or shallow, but we all get dressed, and we all express something to those around us, and to ourselves, when we do. Moreover, we all have an impact on our surrounding world and those we share it with, when we buy clothing, shoes and accessories. This impact is, unfortunately, regularly and greatly underestimated.

I, representing Collective Fashion Justice, am strongly in support of this Bill. This is a piece of legislation which allows for understanding and transparency around what city purchasing supports – whether knowingly or not – so that said purchasing can become more sustainable and just. In a time in which the Green New Deal has been so celebrated, and in which the United States has [banned](#) products made in whole or in part of cotton produced under forced labor in Xinjiang, China – of which a [reported](#) one in five cotton products globally are complicit in – it only makes sense that greater awareness and action around textiles and their significant and complex impact, be a priority.

I'd like to take some time to convey the full scope of what goes into a garment, from a postal worker's shirt to a police officer's shoes. Leather shoes come from a particularly murky kind of supply chain full of deforestation, toxic chemical outputs, animal protection issues, work safety hazards and so on. But for now, if we look closer at this shirt, we can assume it is made of cotton – a breathable, easy wear fiber. India produces the largest portion of global cotton, so without certainty of the cotton's origin, we can assume it may be somewhere in [India](#). Some cotton grown in India is rainfed, organic, and produced in a fair trade certified agricultural operation. The majority of cotton though, is none of these things.

As has been in the news for some time, Indian farmers are on strike due to the challenges they face working in an agricultural sector that does not serve them as they serve everyone else. These farmers are not being paid enough money for their crop in order to survive and afford ever increasing operation costs. There is a shocking average of [28](#) Indian farmer suicides each day according to Indian official records, largely due to [financial strain](#). Pesticide use on many cotton farms here is not regulated or sprayed in line with recommended health and safety guidelines due to a lack of access, and this has resulted in [acute poisoning](#) and increased infertility in male workers exposed to these chemicals. A study published in [Environmental Research](#) found that women impregnated by chemically exposed men were more likely to experience still births, neonatal death and [congenital defects](#) as compared to a control population.

This cotton production and related pesticide use is also responsible for notable eutrophication, greenhouse gas emissions, [biodiversity loss](#), soil depletion and other environmental crises in the country, and in many instances, globally.

This cotton is then ginned, exported to be milled into yarn, woven into a fabric, and then sewn into a shirt. There are people involved in each of these processes. According to [Fashion Revolution](#), only 2% of garment workers make a living wage around the world, and so we can assume none of these people are able to properly feed, clothe, and home themselves with the money they are paid for their hard work.

We know too, that the majority of garment workers are women of colour, and that sexual harassment and assault is all too common in this industry. Late last year, the [Asia Floor Wage Alliance](#) reported that a 20-year-old garment worker sewing in a sweatshop supplying H&M, was allegedly raped and murdered by her supervisor. Her fellow female colleagues report a stiflingly misogynistic and abusive work environment. If these conditions are so common, and so if this were the kind of supply chain that produces a public servants' shirt, I ask respectfully, are these conditions the kind of costs that the council is comfortable to pay?

If we consider shoes again, to further our understanding of the nuanced and immense issues that the fashion industry faces, we should talk about the Amazon Rainforest. Across New York City, thanks particularly to the work of Mr Eric Adams and his team, we are seeing initiatives that work to reduce the consumption of red and processed meats, often due to the environmental impact of such a food. The leading producer of beef in the world, tied to the company JBS, is Brazil. The environmental science community recognises not only the enormous emissions associated with beef production, but the devastation brought upon the Amazon due to our hunger for it. We ought to recognise too then, that as [Brazil](#) is one of the leading cow hide production countries, it is also leather that burns the lungs of the earth.

It is on these cattle ranches that turn sentient animals into both lunches and laced up shoes, that [60%](#) of Brazil's so-called 'Dirty List' of employers tied to labor trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of forced labor go about their business. It is in the darkness of non-transparent supply that bovine individuals are commodified, documented to be [face branded and beaten](#). It is in these cheap, multi-national leather supply chains that [slaughterhouse workers](#) are likely to suffer perpetration induced traumatic stress, all the while working under employers who bet on which worker will get COVID-19 first. It is in these same supply chains that [tannery workers](#), children amongst them, get needlessly sick and die young due to carcinogenic exposure, working in facilities moved out of the United States to avoid environmental oversight penalties.

When shoes and belts are among the final product of these injustices, I must ask again, respectfully, whether or not the council is comfortable buying into such a supply chain?

The introduced legislation allows us to understand what we do not know about supply chains that the New York City Council may buy into. In turn, it allows opportunity for accountability, for change, and indeed for justice.

America has a thriving cotton industry that is full of many innovative farmers dedicated to constantly improving the sustainability of their fiber. Countless American scientists and designers have worked together to create new, sustainable and animal-free materials that are free from the many woes of cow skin leather. New York City is the home of fashion, full of talented garment workers, many of whom are working in genuinely fair conditions. The American economy, and more so, the American people, deserve the financial support of Government councils like New York City.

This Bill allows for such an exciting opportunity to support Americans, and to support sustainable development in line with the relevant United Nations goals, of which there are many. There is a wealth of innovation in the textiles and fashion sector, and the task force established by this legislation would have a timely opportunity to consider changing city purchasing, in order to support production that is less negatively climate impactful, that is recycled, that better protects native flora and fauna, as well as the individuals who live and work to make up these clothes themselves.

With the valuable and important opportunity for positive change that this task force has, comes the need to ensure a task force that can work without bias. It is for this reason that I firmly believe clauses (C) and (D) under point '5. (i) (1)', regarding the nine appointed members of such a task force, stay intact, so as to protect industry interest from potentially interfering with the outcome which is most genuinely ideal for the majority.

If we look more closely at the Bill, there are other clauses that strengthen the intersectional approach to 'total ethics fashion' that is so needed. For example, Task 5 of the task force includes the need to consider 'social costs', such as to understand what information or lack of is available regarding the workers who produce certain apparel. While the majority of the impact this Bill would have is specifically on the environmental impact of city purchasing, we must recognise that work for true sustainability understands environmental justice as interconnected to and serving us all. We as humans and other animals are not separate from nature, but a part of it, and so to remove any mention of social costs in this Bill would be disappointing.

Further following this intersectional approach, it is worth recognising too, that the environmental impacts to be considered with the greatest weight under Task 2, are tied significantly to the production of animal-derived materials. This is shown chiefly by data from the HIGG Material Sustainability Index – which is diligent and detailed, and [made public and visually accessible online by our organisation](#). It is worth considering which city purchases and which potential material or supplier changes may make the most impact through total ethics and climate justice lenses. It would be a shame for the task force of such a Bill to not produce the greatest overall impact possible.

While the insights of the fashion industry I have outlined today are grim, it is in this that we may find fuel to work for something better. I am certain that should this Bill be passed, any lack of information available about city purchases and the supply chains behind those, and any information which may arise that we wish were not the true, can be used to inform a more totally ethical and sustainable future of New York City purchasing. I am sure too, that

the council agrees that city purchasing should not cost the earth, or the wellbeing and life of individuals. This Bill will help to put such a sentiment into action.

Thank you for your time and work towards a better future.

Good afternoon, Chairman Kallos and members of the committee. I'm Kathy Nizzari, County Committeewoman of the 39th Election District/75th Assembly District. I serve on several boards including the Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club, Chelsea Reform Democrats, the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board, Voters for Animal Rights, as well as several legislative and animal welfare committees. While I am confident each one of these organizations supports Intros 2271 and 2272, our process of submitting testimony is a lengthy one that could not meet today's timeline, so I am speaking as a concerned citizen and activist.

Thank you, Councilman Kallos, for your EPP bills. I fully support them, will do my best to advocate for them, and urge the Council to pass them.

The City must use its procurement power to shift to environmentally preferable purchasing of goods and textiles. Intro 2272 lays bare the environmental impacts of everything from uniforms to furniture to electronic equipment. It clearly illustrates the intersectionality of the environmental crisis with social justice issues like labor exploitation, public health, and animal cruelty.

As a society we must look at the consequences of our disposable culture like fast fashion and make mindful decisions. I vote with my wallet. To me, that means boycotting companies that do not treat their workers fairly, contribute to pollution and the degradation of our planet, and do not employ cruelty-free practices. I do so, even if it is personally inconvenient. Our government has an obligation to do the same. Rather than purchase the cheapest products possible, our city must factor in the external costs of goods and textiles, like how the manufacturing process harms the environment, endangers certain animal species, exploits workers, and causes human health problems. Short-term is short-sighted. Or, as my mother used to say, 'Penny wise, pound foolish.'

While a McDonald's hamburger might only cost \$1, its production wreaks havoc on the planet and animals. Eat a steady diet of them and face a host of health issues, burdening our healthcare system, leading to rising insurance rates, loss of earnings and productivity due to sick leave, and so on. We don't honestly know the true cost of that \$1 burger, but it is safe to say it's a lot more than a \$15 organic salad.

We need to apply that same logic to the city's purchasing. \$12 scrubs might be cheap, but they won't last long, which means they'll end up in a landfill or incinerator, at that price the manufacturer is probably not paying a fair wage to its workers, the materials are subpar, and they will have to be replaced sooner rather than later. So those \$12 scrubs actually cost a lot more than a better quality product made from innovative, sustainable, toxic-free, recycled or recyclable materials.

Again, I fully support these bills and would ask that the language include incineration alongside landfill, since we know that Manhattan's trash is burned at the Covanta facility in Newark, NJ which brings with it a host of social costs like high asthma rates that cannot be ignored. Please also build disposal standards into this legislation, as well as incorporate reuse and repair. I am

happy to provide information on this including organizations that would work with the city to reduce waste.

We need to act now. The city must use its \$22 billion purchasing budget in a responsible way that protects the taxpayers who fund it. If the city does not have the power to demand that social costs be evaluated in determining who gets our purchasing contracts, then we need to lobby the state for this power or we just continue to fund harm -- to ourselves, to the planet, and to all its inhabitants.

I also commend you, Chairman Kallos, for holding city agencies accountable to the existing EPP laws.

Please pass 2271 and 2272. I thank you for your time.

Kathy Nizzari

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