

**Written Responses to Questions for the Record of Keefe Harrison,
Chief Executive Officer of The Recycling Partnership**

Following the Hearing Titled

“Beyond the Blue Bin: Forging a Federal Landscape for Recycling Innovation and Economic Growth”

**Before the
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Environment**

**Hearing Date: July 16, 2025
Response Date: September 3, 2025**

The Honorable Bob Latta (R-OH)

- 1. In the United States, the mid-and-downstream aluminum industry has invested \$10 billion over the past decade. In order to support continued investment, the aluminum industry needs input materials, therefore requiring an all-of-the-above policy approach to keep and collect more domestic aluminum scrap.**
 - a. What can Congress be doing to support domestic aluminum scrap collection for consumer and industrial scrap?**

According to The Recycling Partnership’s *2024 State of Recycling Report*, every year, 45% of aluminum cans in American households are trashed instead of recycled. That’s nearly 1 million tons of a highly recyclable commodity that could become new cans on store shelves again. Instead, it ends up in landfills.

The aluminum industry has invested billions to make better use of materials, but no single industry or material alone can fix a fragmented system. We need coordinated policy to collect, sort, and recycle more materials, including aluminum, domestically and at scale.

Congress has two clear opportunities to help close the gap for all materials.

1. Pass the CIRCLE Act (H.R.4466) to incentivize investments that upgrade and expand the recycling system.
2. Advance legislation like H.R.2145 and H.R.4109, which build on The Partnership’s decade-plus of community-based work to ensure more Americans can participate in recycling.

The CIRCLE Act is a bipartisan recycling infrastructure investment tax credit designed to reward investments in the domestic system that returns materials back into the supply chain, building local jobs and increasing efficiency along the way. This legislation would allow for investments like those made by the aluminum industry and others to go farther while reducing the burden on local governments and nonprofit operators that face high capital costs. We encourage inclusion of the CIRCLE Act in upcoming packages that adjust the tax code or focus on investing in the domestic economy.

At The Recycling Partnership, we use data and field-tested insights to identify where recycling systems fall short and what needs to change. Our work is grounded in the five requirements of an effective recycling system. We ask: is it recyclable, can people recycle, do people recycle, is it being recycled, and is the material being reused? We've mapped how aluminum and other materials move through the system, and where they stall. With that insight, we can pinpoint where policy interventions are needed to improve material flow and recovery.

Both H.R.2145 and H.R.4109 (combined in the Senate as the STEWARD Act, S.351) would increase access for rural and underserved communities, while capturing and sharing proven strategies to reduce landfill waste. Passing the STEWARD Act would help ensure all materials, not just aluminum, stay in use and in the American economy.