Inova Office of Sustainability and Wellness

# CEO Name

# Address

# City, State, Zip Code

Date

Dear GPO CEO

[Name of Hospital/Health System] is committed to sustainability and invites [\_GPO name\_\_\_], as [our GPO/ one of the top GPOs in the U.S.] to take a leadership role in greening the health care supply chain.

The U.S. health care industry spends more than $200 billion annually on medical and non-medical products, with more than 70 percent of that spend occurring through use of a group purchasing organization (GPO). Hospitals are environments for healing, but many of the products and materials that come into them may be harmful to patients, staff, and the community. There is a tremendous opportunity to have a positive impact on environmental health and community well-being through the work of our supply chains.

We call upon the health care supply chain to step up as leaders in providing medical products that reduce waste, energy and water, and are designed with safer chemicals to reduce patient harm, particularly in sensitive patient populations.

Our [Hospital/Health System] is asking for your support in purchasing environmentally preferable products and services and sharing our successes. These are essential components of a sustainable health care system and we request your support by taking the following steps:

1. **Make a Commitment:**
   1. Demonstrate your organizational commitment to sustainability in health care and specifically to sustainable (or environmentally preferable) purchasing (EPP). We suggest that you:
   2. Adopt a Sustainability or EPP commitment statement or policy.
   3. Notify all suppliers about your support for sustainable health care and environmentally preferable products.
2. **Data Transparency:**
   1. Provide easy access to the data from the Standardized Environmental Questions for Medical Products (developed by Practice Greenhealth) and other responses to questions related to sustainability and identify how best to communicate this to your members.
   2. Remove barriers and find ways to support our need to measure success, specifically to obtain spend data on environmentally preferable products.
   3. As a GPO participating with GS1/GDSN processes, take a proactive role to ensure environmental attributes for health care products, services, and packaging are included in data considerations. Ultimately, this will be long-term solution to the data needs of your membership. We would be glad to work with you to identify priority considerations.
3. **Engagement and Communication**
   1. Educate staff and others on the environmental priorities in health care.
   2. Partner with suppliers and manufactures to provide education information on the EPP attributes for product end users.

It is important we work together to embed environmental criteria in all purchasing decisions. By doing so, we will create safer and healthier environments for our patients, staff and local and global communities.

Thank you for your support and leadership in sustainable procurement.

Sincerely,