Natural Resources Council of Maine
3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 622-3101 • Fax: (207) 622-4343 • www.nrcm.org

Testimony in Support of LD 1541,

An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money

Sarah K. Nichols, NRCM Sustainable Maine Director, May 10, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Sarah Nichols, and I am the Sustainable Maine Director for the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong support of LD 1541. The language is very similar to LD 2104, which was voted majority ought-to-pass by this Committee in the 129th Legislature but unfortunately did not receive a full vote by the 129th House and Senate due to the Covid-19 shutdown.

Maine's municipal recycling programs are still struggling because of high costs to taxpayers and too much packaging; it is more urgent than ever to support and improve our recycling programs through passage of LD 1541.

According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), about 30-40% of the materials being managed by municipalities are packaging waste. Maine taxpayers pay *at least* $16 million each year to manage packaging material through recycling or disposal.[1] The DEP also estimates that it costs an average of 67% more to recycle than dispose of packaging in the state.[2] Maine taxpayers and towns have no control over how much packaging material is landing in our waste stream. They simply pay the bill. Some towns can't afford to do so anymore and are having to curb or cancel their recycling programs because disposal in a landfill or waste-to-energy plant is cheaper than recycling. Further, they are receiving a lot of packaging material that isn't readily recyclable in Maine.

Our current system is broken and needs to be reformed, and that's what LD 1541 will do. Producers of packaging currently have no responsibility to assist with the recycling and disposal costs of their packaging, and they have no incentive to design their packaging so that it is more readily recyclable. LD 1541 addresses these fundamental flaws in our current recycling system that will only get worse if not addressed now.

The bill internalizes the cost of end-of-life recycling for packaging waste by shifting these expenses to the responsible parties, the manufacturers themselves. Taxpayers should not shoulder this burden. Shifting the costs away from taxpayers will literally enable towns to retain their recycling programs. With passage of LD 1541, producer funding also would be available for education and infrastructure development.

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[1] Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection's 2019 Annual Product Stewardship Report

[2] Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Maine Solid Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report for Calendar Years 2018 & 2019

Enacting LD 1541 is the single most important action that Maine lawmakers can take to greatly increase recycling rates in Maine:

Although Maine established a recycling rate goal of 50% more than three decades ago, our current recycling rate is only 36%. In contrast, recycling rates exceed 50% in jurisdictions that have adopted Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging laws such as the one that would be established by LD 1541. There are five provinces in Canada that have stewardship programs for packaging materials. As part of an expert technical briefing to this Committee on January 22nd, 2020, Resa Dimino, Senior Consultant at Resource Recycling Solutions, presented data showing that:

- Residential recycling rates in Canadian provinces immediately increased by an average of 8% following adoption of EPR for Packaging laws;
- Average recycling rates in these provinces after 2-4 years increased by 17%; and
- Average recycling rates after 8-10 years increased by 29%.

Further, data from jurisdictions where producers are responsible for recycling costs shows that the overall total cost per capita for recycling is about the same as it is here in Maine, where we have a taxpayer-funded system, yet those EPR jurisdictions have much higher recycling rates. This evidence is illustrated in the attached table, which shows that producer-funded recycling programs are more cost-effective than Maine's taxpayer-funded system and lead to much higher recycling rates.

LD 1541 has a workable stewardship model, with fairness for all stakeholders and transparency at its core:

- The DEP would contract with a single stewardship organization (SO) to equitably fulfill the responsibilities of the program, rather than let producers set up a system that works only for them. The primary role of the SO would be to collect fees from producers of packaging based on the weight and type of materials; and then use those funds to reimburse municipalities for the costs they have incurred for recycling packaging. The SO would also provide technical assistance to both producers and municipalities to maximize overall program efficiency. (Section 3)
- To have a transparent, fair, and effective stewardship model, the details of the program including how fees would be set for producers and how reimbursements are made to municipalities; what materials are readily recyclable; as well as overall program goals would be done by a public Department rulemaking process. (Section 13)
- The program is designed to continually improve over time as performance data is generated. Information provided in annual reports to the DEP from the SO would include the total amount of packaging material that are collected by municipalities for recycling, and how much of that material is recycled. There would be regular audits of Maine's waste, recycling, and litter to ground truth the figures provided by producers and give the State more insight into our waste problem so that we can continually improve the system over time. (Sections 5 and 13)

LD 1541 creates a municipal reimbursement program, with financial and technical assistance to all participating municipalities:

- Participation in the EPR program would not be mandatory for municipalities. If a municipality chooses to participate, it would need to recycle each readily recyclable material, meaning material that has a reliable market, at a minimum; and provide necessary information to the SO in order to be reimbursed. (Section 9)
- Participating municipalities would be reimbursed annually for their cost of recycling packaging materials that they have already paid; so there is no compelling reason to require that they spend their reimbursement money on a specific purpose. (Section 10)
- Each municipality would receive technical assistance from the SO for increasing access and education and improving recycling collection rates. (Section 3, A1b)
- Grants would be awarded each year, primarily using funds generated from producer fees for packaging that is not readily recyclable. Grants will prioritize projects that support Maine's Solid Waste Management hierarchy under section 2101—which begins with waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. (Section 11)

LD 1541 protects Maine's small businesses:

- The bill exempts small producers who earn less than $2 million in gross revenue or sell less than one ton of packaging material to consumers in Maine, or businesses that do the majority of sales through salvage and liquidations, like Mardens. (Section 2)
- The bill also creates financial certainty for low-volume producers, who sell more than one ton but less than 15 tons of packaging. These producers could opt to pay a flat fee of no more than $500 per ton of total packaging each year. This provision helps provide smaller companies with a clear understanding of their maximum financial obligations under the law. (Section 1, Section 6c, Section 13, A 1b)
- The SO would assist the producers in helping them reduce fees from changes in packaging design elements. (Section 3, A 1a)

LD 1541 creates the right incentives for more waste reduction, reuse, and recycling:

- Producer payments will be reduced through an "eco-modulated" fee structure, which incentivizes less packaging, reuse of packaging, recycling of packaging, reduced toxicity, and increased post-consumer recycled content in packaging; as well as packaging with clear and accurate disposal instructions or other design characteristics that reduce contamination and consumer confusion. (Section 6D)
- Program performance standards will be set through rulemaking that have goals for producers to reduce and improve packaging, municipalities to increase recycling access and education, and overall program goals including increasing recycling collection and actual recycling of that material (Section 13 A,5). Performance standards will inform how fees are set, where grant funds should be invested, and how to improve the system over time.
- LD 1541 helps to support recycling markets. Readily recyclable packaging means there is a stable market for that material, and each participating municipality would have to collect everything on that list, which will also work to make education and outreach easier (Section 9A). The bill also creates a financial incentive for producers to use

readily recyclable packaging, as well as to use post-consumer recycled content in packaging, which drives demand for materials collected for recycling in Maine (Section 6D).

- In order to move more materials out of the municipal waste stream, the bill allows for alternative collection programs for materials that aren't readily recycled by municipalities. This provision will give producers the option of setting up a new collection program as they work to make their packaging more recyclable and help create markets for their packaging within three years. (Section 8)
- The program would increase consumer confidence in recycling. The SO would collect data on material sold into Maine, how much was collected for recycling, and how much of that collected material was indeed recycled (Section 13, A, 5). There would be regular audits of what's in our waste, recycling, and litter in Maine to ground-truth the figures and provide more insight into how the system can be continually improved over time (Section 3,A, 8).

In closing, I would like to emphasize that LD 1541 is strongly supported by Maine municipalities, people, businesses, and the environmental community.

- Twenty-nine municipalities, representing more than 325,000 Maine residents, have adopted municipal resolutions urging Maine to adopt an EPR for Packaging law (see attached).
- Fifteen Maine businesses support this model of EPR for Packaging, see business sign-on letter attached to my testimony.
- And 2,253 people have signed a petition urging lawmakers to enact an EPR for Packaging law. The petition letter and signatures are attached to the end of my testimony.
- LD 1541 is a priority bill for Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition, which is a partnership of 32 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing more than 100,000 members who work to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

I appreciate the work of this Committee and urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1541, so that Maine communities and taxpayers receive the support they need to maintain and strengthen recycling in Maine, now and into the future. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

COMPARISON OF COSTS AND EFFECTIVNESS OF A SAMPLE*** OF EPR FOR PACKAGING LAWS

Jurisdiction	Years in Place	Net Cost of Program (2017)*	People Served	Number of Producers	2017 Annual Per Capita Cost (USD)	Percent Taxpayers Pay	Recovery Rate
Belgium	30	€ 144,300,000	11,000,000	5,000	$14.61	0%	80%
France	27	€ 655,000,000	64,850,000	22,741	$11.42	20%	70%
Italy	22	€ 524,000,000	55,000,000	8,500	$10.61	0%	69.7%
Ontario	16	$249,809,925 CAD	12,962,740	1,800	$14.26	50%	61.3%
Quebec	15	$151, 700, 000 CAD	8,316,000	3,400	$13.05	0%	63.6%
Manitoba	9	$26,508, 492 CAD	1,206,492	796	$16.26	20%	70.6%
British Columbia	7	$72, 513, 159 CAD	4,566,371	1,176	$11.75	0%	74.5%
Saskatchewan	3	$5,770,209 CAD	846,804	553	$5.04	25%	72.8%
MAINE	N/A	$16,000,000-$17,500,000**	1,340,000	0	$11.04-$13.06*	100%	<36%**

*Figures are annual costs reported by the Producer Responsibility Organizations in the various jurisdictions

** Estimates from Maine DEP 2019 Annual Product Stewardship Report.

***Countries with EPR for Packaging Laws include:** Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Republic of Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vatican

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Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources,

Below is a list of Maine cities and towns, representing more than 325,000 residents from across the state, that have passed resolutions in support of the adoption of an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging law to save taxpayers money and improve the effectiveness of recycling as described in LD 1541: An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money.

Maine's municipalities have been unfairly forced to shoulder the burden of the nation's recycling problems and it is time for big corporations to do their part.

Town	Population	Legislators
Bangor*	31,997	Rep. Cardone, Rep. Perry, Rep. Roeder, Rep. Supica, Sen. Baldacci
Bar Habor	5,535	Rep. Lynne Williams, Sen. Luchini
Bethel	2,632	Rep. Head, Sen. Keim
Blue Hill	2,676	Rep. Pebworth, Sen. Luchini
Brunswick	20,481	Rep. Arford, Rep. Tucker, Rep. McCreight, Sen. Daughtry
Camden	4,825	Rep. Doudera, Sen. Miramant
Cape Elizabeth	9,313	Rep. Kessler, Rep. Millet, Sen. Carney
Ellsworth	8,048	Rep. Grohoski, Sen. Luchini
Falmouth	12,240	Rep. Crockett, Rep. Pierce, Sen. Breen
Freeport	8,510	Rep. Sachs, Sen. Daughtry
Harpswell	4,912	Rep. McCreight, Sen. Daughtry
Kennebunkport	3,639	Rep. Babbidge, Rep. Gere, Sen. Deschambault
Kingfield	970	Rep. Skolfield, Sen. Black
Lewiston	35,944	Rep. Brooks, Rep. Cloutier, Rep. Connor, Rep. Craven, Sen. Libby
Limerick	2,919	Rep. Blier, Rep. Sampson, Sen. Woodsome
Lubec	1,304	Rep. Tuell, Sen. Moore
Manchester	2,556	Rep. Warren, Sen. Hickman

Town	Population	Legislators
North Yarmouth	3,800	Rep. Sharpe, Sen. Daughtry
Orono	10,679	Rep. Osher, Rep. Perry, Sen. Dill
Pittsfield	4,022	Rep. Collamore, Sen. Farrin
Poland	5,612	Rep. Bradstreet Arata, Rep. Fay, Sen. Claxton
Portland*	66,417	Rep. Brennan, Rep. Collings, Rep. Crockett, Rep. Lookner, Rep. Sylvester, Rep. Talbot Ross, Rep. Wood, Rep. Zager, Sen. Ben Chipman, Sen. Sanborn
Scarborough	20,352	Rep. Bailey, Rep. Caiazzo, Rep. Warren, Sen. Brenner, Sen. Carney
South Portland	25,606	Rep. Kessler, Rep. Morales, Rep. Reckitt, Sen. Carney
Topsham	8,852	Rep. Tepler, Sen. Vitelli
Tremont	1,593	Rep. McDonald, Sen. Luchini
Trenton	1,525	Rep. Grohoski, Sen. Luchini
Waterville	16,646	Rep. Madigan, Rep White, Sen. Cyrway
Whitefield	2,286	Rep. Lemelin, Sen. Maxmin

**Bangor City Council Supports LD 1541 and is finalizing municipal resolution language on May 10, 2021 at their evening council meeting.*

**Portland City Council's Legislative Committee has directed City staffers to testify in support of LD 1541 in lieu of adopting a municipal resolution.*

Resolution of the
Bar Harbor Town Council

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law. We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

The Municipal Officers of Bar Harbor

Jefferson Dobbs, Chair

Matthew A. Hochman, Vice-Chair

Gary Friedmann

Valerie Peacock

Jill Goldthwait

Erin E. Cough

Joseph Minutolo

Resolution to support Municipal Recycling Programs

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, The Select Board of the Town of Bethel, Maine, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

01/06/2020

Peter Southam

Lloyd Sweetser

Lori Swain

Michele ~~Varoulo-Cole~~ Varuolo Cole

Andrew Whitney

Town of Blue Hill, Maine

SELECTMEN/ASSESSORS
JAMES DOW
VAUGHN LEACH
ELLEN BEST

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
SHAWNA AMBROSE

CEO/ PLUMBING INSPECTOR
JUDY JENKINS

ROAD COMMISSIONER
WILLIAM COUSINS

FIRST SETTLED 1762

INCORPORATED JAN. 30, 1789

TREASURER
REBECCA J. WILBER

TAX COLLECTOR/ TOWN CLERK
ETTA PERKINS

CLERK/911 OFFICER
LYNDSEY DOW

FIRE CHIEF
MATTHEW DENNISON

18 Union Street
Blue Hill, Maine 04614
TELEPHONE 207-374-2281 FAX 207-374-9935

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Leach

Vaughn Leach, Select Board Chair

Ellen Best

James Dow

Town of Brunswick, Maine

TOWN COUNCIL

Resolution Supporting Recycling Reform for Maine

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town Council of Brunswick, Maine, supports an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431).

We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

- More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

- More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not

resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

- More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Voted by the Town Council of Brunswick, Maine this 21st day of October, 2019

/s/ John M. Perreault

_____

John M. Perreault, Chair – Town Council

RECYCLING REFORM FOR MAINE

More Effective • More Sustainable • More Equitable

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Camden Select Board **12/17/2019**

RA Falciani

Robert Falciani, Chairperson

Alison McKellar, Vice Chairperson

Marc Ratner, Board Member

Jenna Lookner, Board Member

Taylor Benzie, Board Member

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Town Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 6260
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
(207) 799-7665

I, Debra M. Lane, Town Clerk of the Town of Cape Elizabeth, Maine do hereby certify that at a duly called meeting of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council on March 8, 2021 at which all of the members of the Town Council were present and voting throughout, the following item was passed unanimously.

Item #56-2021 Consideration of Endorsement of the Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution

Moved by Valerie J. Deveraux and Seconded by Gretchen R. Noonan
ORDERED, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council endorses the Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution as prepared by the Natural Resources Council of Maine as presented.
(7 yes) (0 no)

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases Are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, Constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the Management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for
Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine Municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Debra M. Lane, Town Clerk
Certified this 2nd day of April 2021 at Cape Elizabeth, Maine

City of ELLSWORTH
Business, Leisure, Life.

City Council

1 City Hall Plaza ▪ Ellsworth, ME 04605-1942
Phone (207) 667-2563 ▪ Fax (207) 669-6618
www.ellsworthmaine.gov

City of Ellsworth - Recycling Reform Proclamation

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved:

The City of Ellsworth, a municipality of Maine, does hereby support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced to stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they did not create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed – and the packaging manufactures that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Dale Hamilton 2/11/2020

Dale Hamilton, City Council Chair/Mayor Date:

Resolution No 97-2020

TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION

For the Town of Falmouth to Support LD 2104, an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Law

WHEREAS, packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass and carboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs. However, producers are not designing packaging that can be profitably recycled; and

WHEREAS, global recycling markets have experienced recent changes resulting in local challenges to process recyclable materials in feasible ways and exposure of flaws in how recycling has been managed. Taxpayers currently pay 100% of the cost and an estimated $17 million each year to manage these materials through increasingly expensive disposable and recycling options and municipalities are also responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Legislature passed LD 1431, a Resolve to Support Municipal Recycling Programs, in 2019, which aims to develop legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility law for packaging in the State; and,

WHEREAS, stakeholders are working together using the framework of LD 1431, to implement An Act to Support and Increase the Recycling of Packaging, LD 2104, which recognizes that there are more effective, more sustainable and more equitable ways of incentivizing producers to make packaged material that is easily recyclable; and

WHEREAS, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packing through extended producer reforms in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada; and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs; and

WHEREAS, through an extended producer responsibility law, producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs, and

WHEREAS, implementation of a statewide Extended Producer Responsibility Program for packaging wastes would ensure that municipalities will be protected from unbalanced costs when global recycling markets are unfavorable, and taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling and the packaging manufacturers will be provided a more equitable way to distribute costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH, ASSEMBLED THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH 2020, THAT:

The Falmouth Town Council does hereby agree to the following:

Resolution No 97-2020

1. The Town of Falmouth supports LD 2104, an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging law as endorsed by the Maine Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431).

Attest: Linda M Case Date: 3/11/2020

Linda Case, Deputy Town Clerk

RECYCLING REFORM FOR MAINE

More Effective • More Sustainable • More Equitable

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

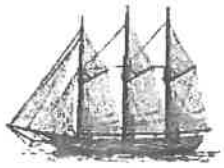
We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Harpswell Board of Selectmen December 19, 2019



TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE

~ INCORPORATED 1653 ~

MAINE'S FINEST RESORT

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, the Town of Kennebunkport, Maine, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity

prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Resolved:

Selectmen: _____

Selectmen: _____

Selectmen: _____

Selectmen: _____

Selectmen: _____

Date Resolved: 9-26-2019

Town of Kingfield

38 School Street

Kingfield, ME 04947

(207) 265-4637 (207) 265-4626 Fax

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Given under our hands the 5th day of August, A.D. 2019

Wade Browne

John Dill

Morgan Dunham

Walter Kilbreth

Raymond Meldrum

Board of Selectmen, Town of Kingfield

A true copy of resolution:

FaithAnne Gould, Town Clerk

CITY OF LEWISTON, MAINE

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

COUNCIL RESOLVE

Resolve, Calling Upon the Maine Legislature to Support an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Law.

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and, in some cases, are eliminating recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimate $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling, and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and the municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all of the responsibility for managing post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,

The City Council of the City of Lewiston supports an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of LD 1431, A Resolve To Support Municipal Recycling Programs. We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective. Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine; and

More sustainable. An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced to stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed -- and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Be It Further Resolved, that

The City Clerk shall provide copies of this Resolve to the Members of the Legislature's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Lewiston Legislative Delegation.

Roland C. LePage
Joanne L. Andrews
Gilbert S. Harris
Wendy M. Thorne
Dottie Richard
BOS@LimerickME.org

Board of Selectmen
Phone: 207-793-2166 #6
Fax: 207-793-8510

Town Of Limerick
55 Washington Street
Limerick, ME. 04048

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs; Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Town of Limerick Municipality, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Given under our hands on this 9th day of September, 2019

Roland C. LePage Jr.

Joanne L. Andrews

Gilbert S. Harris

Wendy M. Thorne

Dorothy M. Richard

Board of Selectmen, Town of Limerick

Town of Lubec
40 School Street
Lubec, ME 04652
(207) 733-2341

Resolution for the Town of Lubec

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,
We, the select board of the Town of Lubec, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

Town of Lubec
40 School Street
Lubec, ME 04652
(207) 733-2341

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

This Resolve is signed and supported by the Lubec Board of Selectmen

Carol Dennison – Chairman

Daniel Wagner -Vice Chairman

Rachel Rubeor- Selectman

Jason Evasius- Selectman

Sonja Bailey- Selectman

Resolution of the Select Board of the Town of Manchester, Maine
Regarding Recycling Reform for Maine

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-mange materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragments and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the package materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other pastes of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

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More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed – and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF MANCHESTER, MAINE

Robert Gasper

Paula Thomas

Dawn Kliphan

Doug Ide

Garry Hinkley

RECYCLING REFORM FOR MAINE

More Effective ▪ More Sustainable ▪ More Equitable

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

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Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

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Town of North Yarmouth
Select Board

Steve Berry, Chairman

James Moulton, Vice Chairman

Austin Harrell, Member

Brian Sites, Member

Date: February 16, 2021

Council Order 21-24

Town of Orono

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Orono Town Council, that the Council hereby supports an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Signed and Sealed this 8th Day of February 2021.

Thomas H. Perry

Thomas Perry, Council Chairman

59 Main Street • Orono, Maine 04473 • (207)866-2556 • FAX (207)866-5053
Home of the University of Maine

Town of Pittsfield

112 Somerset Avenue
Pittsfield, Maine 04967-1432
PH: 1-207-487-3136 Fax: 1-207-487-3138
townmanager@pittsfield.org

May 05, 2021

Legislature's Joint Standing Committee
on Environment and Natural Resources

At their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 04, 2021, the Pittsfield Town Council voted in the spirit of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to support the concept of the EPR Packaging Law. The Town of Pittsfield encourages the Legislature to continue to work with the many stakeholders involved to develop and enhance LD 1541 "An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money."

We understand that it is not an easy process to bring everyone together and commend you for your efforts to support and improve municipal recycling. We are very proud of our comprehensive recycling program and our ability to assist our neighbors through our regional recycling efforts.

Respectfully yours,

Kathryn Ruth

Kathryn Ruth
Town Manager

Town of Poland

1231 Maine Street
Poland, ME 04274
(207) 998-4601

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved,

We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

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More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Signed this 17th day of September, 2019

Board of Selectpersons

Mary-Beth Taylor, Chairperson

Suzette Moulton, Vice-Chairperson

Joseph Cimino

Stephen Robinson

Stanley Tetenman

Town of Scarborough, Maine
259 US Route One, PO Box 360
Scarborough, Maine • 04070-0360

RESOLUTION 19-001
TO SUPPORT MUNICIPAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS [LD1431]

WHEREAS, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and,

WHEREAS product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and,

WHEREAS Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and,

WHEREAS producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and,

WHEREAS producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, We, the Town of Scarborough, Maine, supports an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine; and,

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and,

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed and the packaging manufacturers that produce less wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Signed and dated this 6th day of November, 2019, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager of Scarborough, Maine.

Peter F Hayes

Signed by: Peter F. Hayes, Council Chair

Yolande P Justice

Attested by: Yolande P. Justice, Town Clerk

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

KATHERINE W. LEWIS
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

District One
CLAUDE V.Z. MORGAN

District Two
KATHERINE W. LEWIS

District Three
MISHA C. PRIDE

District Four
APRIL L. CARICCHIO

District Five
DEQA DHALAC

At Large
KATELYN S. BRUZGO

At Large
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

IN CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVE #9-19/20

WHEREAS, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

WHEREAS, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

WHEREAS, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

WHEREAS, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

WHEREAS, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces, and as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs; and

WHEREAS, changes in the global recycling markets affected the local waste stream and directly impacted South Portland through more stringent restrictions on clean recycling loads and subsequent contamination fees; and

WHEREAS, South Portland has demonstrated leadership in waste reduction programs, policies, and practices through the Polystyrene Ban and Plastic Bag Fee, the state's first citywide food waste recycling program, and a cross-jurisdictional recycling internship program; and

WHEREAS, South Portland remains committed to providing waste reduction and recycling services combined with robust, citywide outreach and education campaigns to foster a better understanding in the community of how to recycle properly; and

WHEREAS, South Portland has a goal to increase the City's recycling rate to 40% by 2020 through purposeful purchasing, reuse, recycling, and composting and will outline actions to minimize waste by changing how our community consumes and disposes goods and materials in the *One Climate Future* plan;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, We, the City of South Portland, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced to stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed- and the packaging manufacturers that produce less-wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less that those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

TOWN OF TOPSHAM, MAINE

Derek Scrapchansky
Town Manager

Office of the Town Manager
100 Main Street
Topsham, Maine 04086
Telephone: (207) 725-5821
FAX: (207) 725-1731
Website: www.topshammaine.com

Mark M. Waltz
Assistant Town Manager

Rose Woodd
Administrative Assistant

March 5, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On February 18, 2021, the Topsham Board of Selectmen discussed and deliberated a request to adopt a resolution to support recycling reform for Maine. The Board had an extended discussion and voted unanimously **"In the spirit of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) the Town of Topsham supports the concept of the EPR Packaging Law and we encourage the Legislature to continue working to develop a policy".**

Sincerely,

Derek Scrapchansky
Town Manager

Cc: Board of Selectmen

Resolution

Of the Tremont Board of Selectmen

Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and

Whereas, product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and

Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and

Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, We, Maine's municipalities, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Tremont Board of Selectmen

Jamie Thurlow, Chair

Michael Mansolilli, Vice-Chair

Kevin Buck

Howard Goodwin

McKenzie Jewett

TOWN OF TRENTON

February 12, 2020

Sarah K. Nichols
Sustainable Maine Director
3 Wade Street, Augusta, Maine 04330

Whereas the Town of Trenton Maine recognizes the need for responsible management of our municipal solid waste, and the town recognizes the relationship of solid waste production to consumer activity and producer packaging choice, as well as the effect of Solid Waste Management on long and short-term fiscal, environmental, and health outcomes for the citizens of Trenton and other Maine municipalities, the Select Board has voted in support of the State's continuing exploration of the concept of Expanded Producer Responsibility.

Very truly yours,

R. Frederick Ehrlenbach
Chair, Board of Selectmen

59 Oak Point Road, Trenton, Maine 04605 ▪ (207) 667-7207
E-mail: townoffice@trentonme.com ▪ Web: www.trentonme.com

CITY of Waterville
MAINE

Office of the
City Manager

March 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

On March 16, 2021, the City of Waterville City Council discussed and deliberated a request to adopt a resolution to support recycling reform for Maine. The Council had an extended discussion and voted in support of the following: "**In the spirit of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) the City of Waterville supports the concept of the EPR Packaging Law, and we encourage the Legislature to continue working to develop a policy".**

Sincerely,

Stephen Daly
City Manager

cc: City Council

Waterville
CONVERGE & CREATE

1 Common Street, Waterville, ME 04901-6699
Phone: (207) 680-4204 | Fax: (207) 680-4207
mroy@waterville-me.gov | www.waterville-me.gov

CITY OF WATERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 41-2021

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR:

SUPPORT FOR AN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKAGING (EPR) LAW

~~**Whereas,** Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and~~

~~**Whereas,** product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and~~

~~**Whereas,** Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and~~

~~**Whereas,** producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and~~

~~**Whereas,** producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs;~~

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Waterville City Council, acting as the Municipal Officers, as follows:

~~We hereby support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:~~

- ~~**More effective:** Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;~~
- ~~**More sustainable**: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and~~
- ~~**More equitable:** Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed – and the packaging manufacturers that produce less- wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.~~

THAT, In the spirit of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility), the City of Waterville supports the concept of the EPR Packaging Law and we encourage the Legislature to continue working to develop a policy.

IN THE CITY COUNCIL

February 16, 2021 Read and Postponed to 3/16/21.

March 16, 2021 Read and Approved, As Amended.

CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

MAYOR



RESOLUTION 19-001
TO SUPPORT MUNICIPAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS (LD1431)

WHEREAS, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult-to-manage materials; and,

WHEREAS product packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine's municipal waste management programs; and,

WHEREAS Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated $16 million to $17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and,

WHEREAS producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and,

WHEREAS producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada, and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, We, the Town of Whitefield, Maine, support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

More effective: Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine; and,

More sustainable: An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced to stop or restrict their programs; and,

More equitable: Maine's cities, towns and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed and the packaging manufacturers that produce less wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.

Signed and dated 19th day of November 2019 by the Select Board of Whitefield, Maine.

Lester Sheaffer, Chair

William McKeen, Vice Chair

Charlene Donahue

Lise Hanners

Keith Sanborn

TRUE AND ATTESTED

TOWN CLERK

RECYCLING REFORM FOR MAINE

More Effective • More Sustainable • More Equitable

Letter of Support from Businesses for an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Law as described in LD 1541

Maine's economy depends on a clean and healthy environment. Every year, our reputation as an eco-friendly state with spectacular outdoor spaces draws thousands of families of tourists. Visitors pump millions of dollars into our local businesses and generate significant tax income. Increasingly, customers are demanding products that are not over-packaged, and Mainers demand effective recycling programs.

Maine's local businesses, residents, and tourists all want to do the right thing to protect Maine's environment, but unfortunately the serious problems facing our waste and recycling systems are making that more challenging than it should be.

Maine's taxpayer-funded municipal recycling programs have been struggling to survive since 2017. Today, recycling costs Maine taxpayers an average of 67% more per ton than trash disposal. As a result, cutbacks and closures to municipal recycling programs have occurred throughout Maine as property taxpayers are being asked to pay more.

There is no indication that things will get better unless the Maine Legislature acts to reform recycling. Maine needs to adopt a proven solution known as Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR) that is already used in 47 countries and provinces around the world. Because EPR has been so successful in those places, many states are now working to bring the policy to the U.S.

As local businesses who care about environmental stewardship and the future of Maine, we are joining Maine's municipalities in urging the Maine Legislature to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging law, as described by LD 1541, as soon as possible.

EPR works because it rewards businesses that have prioritized waste reduction and levels the playing field by holding big corporations accountable for the packaging waste they send to Maine. It also creates a more sustainable funding mechanism for local recycling that will reduce the burden on Maine taxpayers.

EPR is a more fair, effective, and sustainable solution for improving recycling that will help support our economy and preserve Maine's image as an environmental leader.

Signed,

Myself, Laura Marston, **Go Go Refill**

Daniel Bell, **Agri-Cycle**

Rob Tod, **Allagash Brewing Company**

Melanie Hodgdon, **Business Systems Management Inc.**

Celine & Patrick Kelley, **Coastal Cafe and Bakery**

Greg & Lauren Soutiea, **Craignair Inn by the Sea & Causeway Restaurant**

Jodi Breau, **Dental Lace LLC**

Kendall Holmes, **Gardiner Food Co-op**

Mason Palmatier, **Little Dog Coffee Shop**

Daniel Kleban, **Maine Beer Company**

Dana Wilfahrt, **Patagonia**

Giuliana Orsky, **Toad & Co**

Ethan Whited, **Vagabond Coffee Truck**

Tyler Gleason, **We Compost It**

Marla Baldassare, **We Fill Good**

RECYCLING REFORM FOR MAINE

More Effective ▪ More Sustainable ▪ More Equitable

Dear lawmaker,

Our communities are struggling to fund and manage robust and resilient recycling programs. As a result, Maine has yet to reach the goal of recycling 50% of our waste that was established by law 30 years ago. I urge you to support recycling reform to preserve and expand opportunities to recycle in order to help towns save money and conserve our finite natural resources.

Luckily an effective solution to our recycling problems is available. Maine must move quickly to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Materials law so that our towns and taxpayers are no longer unfairly forced to shoulder the burden of managing and paying for recycling programs. The responsibilities of recycling need to be shared with the producers of the packaging who are currently profiting off of having us foot the bill.

EPR for packaging is already effectively used across the world, including in Australia, Brazil, and Canada, all 28 countries in the EU, and Russia. These systems successfully shift costs of managing recycling from taxpayers to the producers of packaging materials and increase recycling rates to well over 50%, which is an important way to save our finite natural resources.

Recycling reform in Maine will make recycling:

- **More Effective:** Producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs. And my community would have an economic incentive to maintain a robust recycling program that no longer creates a tax-burden.
- **More Sustainable:** Our current approach to recycling is not resilient to changes in the global recycling market. Because my community must budget for recycling, when costs rise unexpectedly we may be forced stop or restrict our program. This would be an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets fluctuate.
- **More Equitable:** Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers currently pay $16-$17.5 million per year to manage packaging waste. Meanwhile, more and more disposable and wasteful packaging is entering the market every day because producers have no incentive to design less wasteful packaging. This leaves me, the taxpayer, unfairly footing the bill for a problem I didn't create.

For these reasons, 2253 Mainers urge you to support Maine's municipal recycling programs by passing the extended producer responsibility for packaging law being proposed by LD 1541: An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money.

Thomas Ledue
Acton, Maine
Comment: It's time for such common sense action!

Bonnie Pooley
Albany Twp, Maine

Daria Forman
Albion, Maine

Paul Forman
Albion, Maine
Comment: Please help keep Maine green and natural by supporting an 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law. Our small rural towns should not have to absorb the costs of recycling. Thank you.

Hugh Harwell
Albion, Maine

Comment: EPR legislation is essential, decades late, but a key step in the right direction. The next stage must be product redesign laws that require manufacturers to eliminate planned obsolescence, make their products easily reparable, and set up return and reprocessing facilities and operations to radically reduce waste in landfills and incinerators.

Lawrence Kassman
Albion, Maine

Edward Riggs
Albion, Maine

Sandy Hendrickson
Alfred, Maine

Carol Gardner
Alna, Maine

Deborah Hughes
Alna, Maine

Cathy Johnson
Alna, Maine

bill wood
Alna, Maine

Amy Jones
Alton, Maine

Diana Love
Alton, Maine

Laura Sanborn
Alton, Maine
Comment: Thank you

Elissa Lufkin
Andover, Maine
Comment: Living in a beautiful state requires stewardship. With all the accomplishments of our time it seems like it's time to solve this problem. Thank you for supporting this measure.

Claire Sessions
Andover, Maine

Laurie Magee
Anson, Maine
Comment: It is critical that we work as a state to reduce the cost of our recycle programs in order to reduce our waste and support our recycling programs. The companies that are continuing to produce the packaging that is non-recyclable - or costly to recycle - need to be responsible for the cost of such continued practices - not the consumers or towns.

Chris Grigsby
Appleton, Maine

Peter Crockett
Argyle Twp, Maine

Quinn Blaiklock
Arrowsic, Maine
Comment: There's no way to recycle many manufactured items. With the help of companies, we can progress to keeping so many resources out of landfills!

Bart Chapin
Arrowsic, Maine

Josephine Ewing
Arrowsic, Maine
Comment: For the health of the environment and for our own personal health, it is time to back off the over-use of plastics and return to biodegradable materials. This proposed law is an excellent start.

Rosamond McLean
Arrowsic, Maine

Jesse McMahon
Arrowsic, Maine

Karen Robbins
Arrowsic, Maine

Paul Schlein
Arrowsic, Maine

Karen Ennis
Arundel, Maine

Suzanna Taytslin
Arundel, Maine

Kathryn Begg
Auburn, Maine
Comment: I was very concerned/upset when Auburn decided to only pick up recyclables every two weeks instead of one; but I get it. I even have my doubts as to whether or not this single steam system even works! When I took my green buckets out a shade too late for the pick up - the trash collectors who followed behind offered to throw it out for me! They were being thoughtful - I know - but I go to great lengths to collect it so I told them thanks but no thanks - I recycle it in another 2 weeks. I have noticed that only one other house on my street recycles!!! The City should 'encourage' it - dare I say MANDATE IT! Landlords should require their Tenants to comply! I just heard that the City of Burlington, VT is soon to require household composting! Yet we throw away millions of pounds of plastic! I was recently staying at a Marriott Hotel in LI NY - where they recycle NOTHING!! I made my

feeling know but ...! If recycling is not incentivized - then it must be mandated.

Katie Bonawitz
Auburn, Maine

Renee Cote
Auburn, Maine
Comment: Recycling should follow the polluter pays principle.

Emily Courchesne
Auburn, Maine

Cynthia Grimm
Auburn, Maine

Janet Laird-Lagassee
Auburn, Maine
Comment: Corporate stubbornness cannot be allowed to further damage our planet.

Ellen Lord
Auburn, Maine

Benjamin Lounsbury
Auburn, Maine

Silver Moore-Leamon
Auburn, Maine
Comment: We do need leadership on the state level to make local recycling more consistent and easier to do correctly.

Shelley Norton
Auburn, Maine

Camille Parrish
Auburn, Maine

Jill Perkett
Auburn, Maine

Emily Reese
Auburn, Maine

Bob Sipe
Auburn, Maine
Comment: Recycling is important! Let's fix it!!!

Jamie Verrill
Auburn, Maine

M Whittier
Auburn, Maine
Comment: Hold the trash collecting companies responsible to update! Dover, NH had mandatory recycling pay for trash in 1989!! We are too far behind. Check out World economics fb pages!

Vanessa Williamson
Auburn, Maine

Arthur Woodward
Auburn, Maine

Austin Bayley
Augusta, Maine

Leon Bresloff
Augusta, Maine

E. Scott Dow
Augusta, Maine

Abigayle Eames
Augusta, Maine
Comment: If you want to attract, and keep, younger folks in the region, recycling is a necessary because it's our future at risk here...

Darryl Fuller
Augusta, Maine

Fiona Gordon
Augusta, Maine
Comment: Pass an epr for packaging law and make it possible for Mainers to recycle as many materials as possible!

Nicole Hamlin
Augusta, Maine
Comment: Please do everything you can to keep Maine as Green and sustainable as possible.

Connie Hanson
Augusta, Maine

Henry Harrell
Augusta, Maine

Kalie Hess
Augusta, Maine

Geoffrey Hill
Augusta, Maine

Leisa Hodgkins
Augusta, Maine

Bethany Laquidara
Augusta, Maine

Zoe Leblanc
Augusta, Maine

Roger Leisner
Augusta, Maine

Patrick Loftus
Augusta, Maine
Comment: With the global market for recyclables having collapsed, Maine needs to seize this moment and adopt more modernized, efficient, and sensible recycling policies at the state level. Maine companies need a financial incentive to source less wasteful packaging, and residents deserve better recycling options than having to pay for it and/or drive miles away from their house to a recycling center with very limited hours. Finally, at a time when tens of millions of Americans are unemployed and many jobs are being eliminated, recycling reform represents a jobs creation opportunity. I look forward to supporting legislation, policymakers, and advocates who push innovative and common sense solutions for recycling in Maine.

Carol Mucci
Augusta, Maine

Randi Murphy
Augusta, Maine

Mary Owen
Augusta, Maine

Lisa Pohlmann
Augusta, Maine
Comment: I was happy when our Nobleboro Transfer Station started recycling a broad range of plastics several years ago, and very sad when they had to stop becuase China stopped taking U.S. waste. I hate to put strawberry containers and cooking oil bottles in the trash, plus I hate the over-packaging that comes with so many products, which all goes in the trash. It costs our local towns big bucks!! I am all for BIG CHANGE in Maine on this issue. Let's make Maine a recycling leader - not a laggard - again!

Janet Schlegel
Augusta, Maine

Abigail Stratton
Augusta, Maine

Gail Thompson
Augusta, Maine

Adam Turner
Augusta, Maine

Jessica Whitman
Augusta, Maine

Frank Morin
Baileyville, Maine

Daniel Adam
Bangor, Maine

Charles Bell
Bangor, Maine

Pamela Boisvert
Bangor, Maine

Lisa Cyr
Bangor, Maine

Andrew Czwakiel
Bangor, Maine
Comment: Recycling needs to be going upward in amount recycled not down. Less in landfills, more reuse.

Sarah Dennison
Bangor, Maine
Comment: We have a duty to preserve the health of our ecosystems for future generations, and that includes reducing waste. It is imperative that we improve our recycling systems so they are functional, because right now they are no where near what they need to be. We need manufacturers to take more responsibility for the products that they put on the market and where they will end up. Conscientious consumers are already doing everything they can to recycle, but the system is not strong enough. We need the ability to recycle more products, meaning companies need to be held responsible for manufacturing products that fit within the recycling system. Companies also must pay into the system that handles the waste they create and it should be considered simply another business expense. NRCM's recycling reform suggestions are mirroring what has worked very well in other countries, and we should follow their lead for a cleaner future.

Miriam Devlin
Bangor, Maine
Comment: We must take individual responsibility for all recycling, including those who produce the materials used for packing. This is no longer an either/or option. Where there are rights, there are also responsibilities.

Mary Downing-Minctons
Bangor, Maine

Nancy Earle
Bangor, Maine
Comment: I strongly support recycling. It is a disgrace to see the accumulation of plastics in our waters and land. We need new kinds of packaging material for our food and other products. Support all who are working to replace the waste we leave.

Cathy Glover
Bangor, Maine

Sandra Joy
Bangor, Maine

Samantha Le
Bangor, Maine

dave luce
Bangor, Maine
Comment: IT-IS-TIME ---TO DO SOMETHING---!!!

Donna McMahan
Bangor, Maine
Comment: We must do more.

Libby Norton
Bangor, Maine
Comment: As far as I am concerned Bangor has abandoned recycling. I wish we had more information about how mixing our garbage with paper, class and plastic (which we had been told needed to be clean in order to be recycled) can now be crushed together, pulled apart and recycled! I have been very discouraged. I hope you have the solution. I try my best to choose purchases based on packaging but it is very difficult.

Joan Reif
Bangor, Maine
Comment: Manufacturers need to stop packaging small things in huge amounts of plastic, cardboard, paper, etc.

Jeff Reynolds
Bangor, Maine

Taylor Rose
Bangor, Maine

Layne Rowe
Bangor, Maine

Lev Sherman
Bangor, Maine
Comment: Please help us to restore the many years of good recycling practices and local collection centers through the extended producer responsibility for packaging law, and others. Our healthy society depends on it.

Cason Snow
Bangor, Maine

Linda Stearns
Bangor, Maine

Cynthia Ward
Bangor, Maine

Doug Bird
Bar Harbor, Maine

Jordan Chalfant
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: I care deeply about living sustainably and producing as little waste as possible. It takes cooperation between citizens, industry, and policy makers for that to happen. Please support this endeavor!

Elizabeth Chen
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: The financial responsibility for disposing/recycling of packaging waste needs to be put on the producers. This bill creates incentives for the producers to reduce toxins in packaging materials and to design them so they are more easily recycled. Programs like this have worked in other countries. This is not that different from our own bottle bill. Please pass the extended producer responsibility for packaging law.

Francis Cole
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: As a person who tries to recycle everything possible, I would like to see everything done to encourage producers to package materials in a sustainable manner.

Jennifer Crandall
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: I am so frustrated at how little I can recycle in Bar Harbor: no glass, limited plastic. We need to use less and recycle more.

Martie Crone
Bar Harbor, Maine

Ellen Dohmen
Bar Harbor, Maine

Christie Emigh
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: Please make a commitment to recycling all materials, plastic, glass, paper, cardboard!

Lamont Evans
Bar Harbor, Maine

Nancy H.J. Evans
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: Reform recycling, please!

William Ferm Jr.
Bar Harbor, Maine

Gary Friedmann
Bar Harbor, Maine

Neva Goodwin
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: I spend 2 months on MDI every summer, and am distressed that there is so much that cannot be recycled. Much could and should be reduced at the source. too much packaging on so many things, for example, but meanwhile there should be ways to recycle more.

Abigail Goodyear
Bar Harbor, Maine

Gail Grandgent
Bar Harbor, Maine

Dixie Hathaway
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: Make the manufacturers accountable.

Rebekah Heikkila
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: This is one small but important step toward a more equitable and regenerative use of resources. Please move EPR legislation forward in Maine!

Mary D Hopkins
Bar Harbor, Maine

Ann Jenkins
Bar Harbor, Maine

Liz Kase
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: We could, as a state, investigate the recycling of glass to Sweden and other Scandinavian countries who BUY glass.. if we can ship Beer, we can certainly ship glass..why not Maine for glass recycling for all of New England? We have plenty of ex factories, and we have Eimskip in Portland.

Ted Koffman
Bar Harbor, Maine
Comment: It's passed time to regulate access packaging; poor recycling material, clogging up landfills; wasting energy; avoidable costs to municipalities, tax payers, and consumers, as well as packaging too difficult to open safely.

Janice Lowe
Bar Harbor, Maine

Auria Mauras
Bar Harbor, Maine

Rick Osann
Bar Harbor, Maine

Michelle Perkins
Bar Harbor, Maine

Nancy Poteet
Bar Harbor, Maine

Barbara Sassaman
Bar Harbor, Maine

Eleanor White
Bar Harbor, Maine

Ellen Decotiis
Bar Mills, Maine
Comment: Some towns have reduced recycling because of the changes in the markets available for our materials. The use of landfills is increasing while we watch plastics washing up on shores of protected islands in the Pacific Ocean. Let's be creative in re-using these plastics as reported by a company in Trenton, N.J.! We can be creative in Maine and develop jobs for people displaced by mill closures. We can also continue to ban items such as plastic bags and styrofoam packaging. We need to protect the earth in the face of impending climate change damage. Thank you.

Henry Lanford
Bass Harbor, Maine

Chris Richardson
Bass Harbor, Maine

Thomas Barrington
Bath, Maine

Kimberly Becker
Bath, Maine

Siri Beckman
Bath, Maine
Comment: Please, let's support recycling improvement now! The pandemic has created a serious problem in many ways personal and commercial. But besides that I often feel frustrated daily by the new product packaging that doesn't fit the description for what can be recycled. The craft beer industry for example does not carry the usual 5 or 10 cent recycling 'tag'. Why?

Dozier Bell
Bath, Maine
Comment: Shared responsibility for the sea of packaging materials we generate and use is the only sensible way to proceed. Producers must have incentives to market easily recyclable materials, and towns must not continue to be burdened with producers' refusal to do so.

Will Blake
Bath, Maine

Fred Cichocki
Bath, Maine
Comment: All 'plastics', but especially packaging materials, should be both down- and upcyclable to the limit of molecular stability (at which point, additional considerations are warranted). This should be strictly enforced, to the extent that no new virgin plastics are allowed to be produced until all existing material is fully reprocessed according to its future utility (up to the molecular limit) and re-enters the stream (and so forth into the future.) I'd go even further. If nothing else,

the rate of production of goods that require special packaging should be limited by the rate of recycle of available packaging materials themselves. If this seems draconian, it should. Only by confronting the sacrosanct (but flawed) economics of modern production & consumption, and taking such extreme measures, can we possibly solve the 'plastics problem'. In the ecology of Nature, on the other hand, such 'measures' are the way it's always been. It's high time for us to go 'back to the future'.

Adair DeLamater
Bath, Maine
Comment: This is very important for our communities, and for our Earth.

Padraic Dougherty
Bath, Maine

Deborah Goodwin
Bath, Maine

Nancy Hasenfus
Bath, Maine
Comment: The Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Law is so important. We are damaging our land and oceans with plastics which will never disappear. We need to support recycling now. Many countries are using this type of law and it is working.

Sandy Hempe
Bath, Maine

Katy Hiza
Bath, Maine

Bill Howell
Bath, Maine

Paul Johnson
Bath, Maine

Thomas Kessler
Bath, Maine
Comment: I support the Recycling Reform for Maine Petition as presented by the NRCM. In addition, as a Nation, the Recycling of all manufactured and produced products should be built into the design and endpoint of these products and the manufacturers and producers need to be fully integrated into the Recycling Process as well as the Consumers of these products.

Steve King
Bath, Maine

William Langmaid
Bath, Maine

Rebecca Murray-Littlefield
Bath, Maine

Kimberly Nichols
Bath, Maine

Charles Reece
Bath, Maine

Alicia Romac
Bath, Maine
Comment: Enough! We compost, recycle, use paper and reusable fabric bags, and we still have too much non-recyclable, food and packaging materials, glass and plastic. In addition, I have written letters, made phone calls and sent emails to companies directly asking them to use recyclable packaging. My efforts are not enough, effective legislation is necessary.

Marina Singer
Bath, Maine

George Sprague
Bath, Maine

Katrina St. John
Bath, Maine

Brook Vail
Bath, Maine
Comment: This is so important! Thank you!

Jenifer Van Deusen
Bath, Maine

Gretta Wark
Bath, Maine
Comment: It's time for meaningful reform to how we handle plastics and other materials in this country!

Faith Woodman
Bath, Maine
Comment: This reform will help protect our environment, reduce waste, and save us money. Please support this important legislation. Thank you

Carol Varin
Beddington, Maine
Comment: Our local landfill no longer takes items for recycling. Please help them find a cost effective solution.

Dean Anderson
Belfast, Maine
Comment: Reusing and recycling packaging materials is an essential piece in our efforts to preserve our land for future generations.

Deborah Bailly
Belfast, Maine
Comment: We must create incentives for large corporations to decrease the amount of plastic or other non-recyclable packaging, as well as help towns to recycle waste more fully.

Martha Block
Belfast, Maine

Marilyn Boyer
Belfast, Maine
Comment: Though my family is careful in what we buy, it is discouraging the amount of packaging that we have to recycle or throw away. Most products do not need the amount of packaging that they come in. Legislation to limit the amount of packaging, to require the packaging to be recyclable, and to hold companies responsible for the costs of disposing of their packaging would go a long way toward helping our waste disposal problems. - Marilyn J. Boyer

Don Cox
Belfast, Maine

Corliss Davis
Belfast, Maine

William Fergusson
Belfast, Maine
Comment: Just do it!

Janine Gates
Belfast, Maine

Lisa Gates
Belfast, Maine

Sharon Goguen
Belfast, Maine
Comment: I believe that everything we can do to reduce waste is important.

Susan Guthrie
Belfast, Maine

David Hallbert
Belfast, Maine

Mary Hanson
Belfast, Maine
Comment: Thank you for organizing this. I believe that this is a critical step in our reduction of waste.

Kate Harris
Belfast, Maine

Conny Hatch
Belfast, Maine

Thomas King
Belfast, Maine

Samantha Langlois
Belfast, Maine
Comment: Businesses need to take ownership for the waste they produce!

Vina Lindley
Belfast, Maine

Penny Linn
Belfast, Maine

larry litchfield
Belfast, Maine

Ivy Lobato
Belfast, Maine

Sarah Lozanova
Belfast, Maine
Comment: I support common-sense policies to keep recyclables out of landfills. I also believe corporations need to be held accountable for the packaging they are producing and not pass the expense on to municipalities.

pam mckeen
Belfast, Maine
Comment: I support recycling reform.

Marianne McKinney
Belfast, Maine

John Morey
Belfast, Maine

Christine Murphy
Belfast, Maine

DEBBIE MURPHY
Belfast, Maine

Kathy Muzzy
Belfast, Maine
Comment: This is so important to our future and future generations.

Sandra Piechocki
Belfast, Maine
Comment: Please reform recycling in Maine, make it more efficient, and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Jessica Plummer
Belfast, Maine

Jeff Shula
Belfast, Maine

Deborah Stevenson
Belfast, Maine

Elaine Tucker
Belfast, Maine

Judith Wick
Belfast, Maine
Comment: It's vital we do much better at recycling. We insist on over-packaging almost everything. Plastic is overwhelming the planet, landfills are overloaded with trash that can be recycled and we are wasting finite resources.

Susan Littlefield
Belgrade, Maine

Alexander Wall
Belgrade, Maine

Larry Brown
Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Cara Furman
Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Kevin Macdonald
Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Monica McCarthy
Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Sonya Weaver
Belmont, Maine

Jane Adams
Bernard, Maine

Jayne Ashworth
Bernard, Maine
Comment: The ideas proposed make sense to me. Can we do them here in Maine? Thank you for considering this idea.

Carey Donovan
Bernard, Maine
Comment: Reduce is the top of the waste hierarchy in Maine, yet over the years waste has only continued to increase. his bill would reduce packaging and reduce the amount of waste that municipalities have to dispose of. It would incentivize corporations to provide packaging that is non-toxic and that is readily recyclable. It would also bring money back to the towns to support their recycling programs and waste management program. This legislation would benefit the environment (less toxins), reduce waste, and provide financial support to the towns.

Jill Higgins
Bernard, Maine

Kathleen VanGorder
Bernard, Maine

Pamela Walsh
Bernard, Maine

Ellen Brouillet
Berwick, Maine

Annie Cannon
Berwick, Maine

Jamey Conroy
Berwick, Maine
Comment: There is no excuse for waste that should be recycled. We need to incentivize both consumers and manufacturers so they move towards using renewable & recyclable packaging products, etc.

Luke Conroy
Berwick, Maine

Diane Sirois
Berwick, Maine

Carol Whitaker
Berwick, Maine

Donald Angevine
Bethel, Maine

Douglas Bailey
Bethel, Maine

Barry Donohue
Bethel, Maine

Heather Hayward
Bethel, Maine

Robert Iles
Bethel, Maine
Comment: I recently bought a little bottle of NAIL POLISH from Amazon. It was in a tightly sealed glass bottle, INSIDE A ZIP LOCK TYPE PLASTIC BAG,...INSIDE A DOUBLE WALLED, PADDED, PLASTIC ENVELOPE ABOUT 14 X 16 INCHES big!!! Isn't that ridiculous? And that plastic packaging has to go somewhere, where it will be FOREVER! I cannot find an address for Amazon or I would start a customer rebellion by mail or e-mail. I am signing this petition because somehow we need to let the companies know that they need to think small, biodegradable, in terms of packaging. I care about this! However, I don't completely understand this petition, but if it starts the conversation, I am all for it.

Katherine Reddoch
Bethel, Maine

Sarah Southam
Bethel, Maine
Comment: I have been working on ways to reduce plastic in my life, but the wasteful packaging is what is most frustrating to me because I don't have the ability to change that infrastructure. I think the companies who are shipping products to consumers need to come up with a way for us to either return the packaging material or reuse/recycle the material again in our local communities. It should not just be going into landfills. This is totally irresponsible on all our parts.

Hannah Bonaventura
Biddeford, Maine

Lawrence Boyle
Biddeford, Maine

Meaghan Daly
Biddeford, Maine

David Fortier
Biddeford, Maine
Comment: sane packaging is what I want

Stephanie Makara
Biddeford, Maine

Carissa Maurin
Biddeford, Maine

Nancy Pierce
Biddeford, Maine

Bethaine Regan
Biddeford, Maine

Chloe Remillard
Biddeford, Maine
Comment: Im tired of watching the world die right before my eyes. I'm 20. I should be worrying about finals, not whether or not the planet is still going to be alive by the time im 50.

Nanci Williams
Biddeford, Maine
Comment: There has to be a better way! Many people are resorting to just throwing recyclables away instead of recycling them due to all these changes.

Kristina Wilson
Biddeford, Maine

Cynthia Howard
Biddeford Pool, Maine

Mary Pratt
Biddeford Pool, Maine

Ann Thompson
Biddeford Pool, Maine
Comment: Responsible packaging by manufacturers needs to be a priority. It's vital to reduce or even eliminate pollution of non degradable plastic and other materials in our environment. We are clever enough to solve this problem now.

Tracey Walls
Bingham, Maine
Comment: I would like to see corporations pay the price of environmental damage their products and packaging do. I would like to see an end to toxic plastics completely replaced with renewable, biodegradable packaging and products. Thanks

Rick Alexander
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: I am asking you to support recycling reform to preserve and expand opportunities to recycle in order to help towns save money and conserve our finite natural resources.

Stephen Benson
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: Everyone has to make the right decisions. Even if they are corporations.

Tom Bjorkman
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: EPR is an Investment that pays high dividends in the long term.

Barbara Bramble
Blue Hill, Maine

Martin Curlik
Blue Hill, Maine

semena curlik
Blue Hill, Maine

Randall Curtis
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: It's crazy that Maine is going backwards on the percentage of waste that is reclycled statewide.

Haydee Foreman
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: Hello. For years my friends and I have carefully sorted and cleaned our recyclables. For five of those years (in the early 2000s) our town was secretly hoarding glass (for lack of a buyer that never materialized) and tossing the surplus into the mixed trash. Little did I know that those were the GOOD times in our history of recycling. The solid waste situation for us in Hancock Cty. is terribly discouraging. It’s in desperate need of reform. We need to stop allowing corporations to

externalize their costs by depending on small towns and individuals to deal with their excessive waste.

Maria Goddard
Blue Hill, Maine

Leda Beth Gray
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: This makes a lot of sense! And it is CRAZY not to be recycling-- Maine needs to figure out a way to make it easy for people to recycle.

Shelley Latham
Blue Hill, Maine

Peter Leonard
Blue Hill, Maine

Valencia Libby
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: Important for Maine to move into the 21st century with more jobs in recycling industries

Eileen Mielenhausen
Blue Hill, Maine

Carolyn Mor
Blue Hill, Maine

Elinor Neuhauser
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: Recycling reform continues to lag in Maine and elsewhere! It is past time for Maine to introduce a state wide recycling initiative. EPR, an already internationally successful approach, should be adopted!

Katharine Odell
Blue Hill, Maine

Trish Pettigrew
Blue Hill, Maine

Charles Roelofs
Blue Hill, Maine

Anne Smallidge
Blue Hill, Maine
Comment: Please pass an extended producer responsibility for packaging law.

Lilyanna Sollberger
Blue Hill, Maine

Rick Traub
Blue Hill, Maine

Gabrielle Wellman
Blue Hill, Maine

Arlee Woodworth
Blue Hill, Maine

Brian Barter
Boothbay, Maine

Wendy Bellows
Boothbay, Maine
Comment: Please! All this plastic is helping to kill our planet!

Sarah Callan
Boothbay, Maine

Bonnie Ginger
Boothbay, Maine
Comment: Recycling doesn't work the way it should. To much of our plastic waste, even that which is recyclable, ends up in land fills or is burned. The only way to end our plastic problem is less use. How does that happen-consciousness raising is one part but another way that has not been implemented is to make sure manufacturers pay the bill for the pollution they are responsible for. If that happens they will figure out a way to package that doesn't cost them extra money. Hit where it hurts in the pocketbook! make them pay tyo dispose of their packaging.

Lee Hammond
Boothbay, Maine

Elizabeth Hastings
Boothbay, Maine

Paul Johnson
Boothbay, Maine

Frederick Kraeuter
Boothbay, Maine
Comment: Please, please, pass the extended producer responsibility for packaging law! Recycling should not be a one-sided thing. Industry needs to step up to the plate and accept responsibility for what they produce by producing more easily recyclable or compostable materials.

Helen Larsen
Boothbay, Maine

Leanne Pander
Boothbay, Maine

Star Perkins
Boothbay, Maine

Joan Rioux
Boothbay, Maine

Carolyn Shubert
Boothbay, Maine

Shri Verrill
Boothbay, Maine

Sara Walbridge
Boothbay, Maine

Kathleen Younger
Boothbay, Maine

Robert Younger
Boothbay, Maine

Dorothy Ferrell
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Bill Gruener
Boothbay Harbor, Maine
Comment: Our state is cleaner with bottle recycling and our state is more beautiful. Let's do everything we can to recycle. Thank you.

Kathryn Hartford
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Mary Huntington
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Karine Swanson
Boothbay Harbor, Maine
Comment: I consider that all packaging materials should be biodegradable and fully support widespread recycling of separated waste streams.

Meresa Erving
Bowdoin, Maine

Jennifer Howell
Bowdoin, Maine
Comment: Manufacturers must be held accountable for wasteful packaging. It seems like everything is encased in plastic that can't be recycled - from plastic shipping envelopes (Amazon!) to shoelaces. Something has to give.

Michelle Keleher
Bowdoin, Maine

Linda Lee
Bowdoin, Maine

Kelly Staples
Bowdoin, Maine

Doreen Swanhulm
Bowdoin, Maine
Comment: Please require companies to share the burden of recycling plastics

Marla Blake
Bowdoinham, Maine

Cindy Curran
Bowdoinham, Maine

Susan Drucker
Bowdoinham, Maine

Ashleigh Feeney
Bowdoinham, Maine

Penny Fox
Bowdoinham, Maine
Comment: The cost of recycling may be high, but the costs of NOT recycling will be much greater!We can figure this out! We are MAINERS!! Penny Fox

Debra Lipscomb
Bowdoinham, Maine

Karen Mayo
Bowdoinham, Maine
Comment: Please help and provide leadership

Henry Mitchell
Bowdoinham, Maine

Karen Tilbor
Bowdoinham, Maine

Barbara Brasslett
Bradford, Maine

Jamie Gordon
Bradley, Maine

Jonathan Merry
Bremen, Maine
Comment: 100% support this, but we the consumer also need to adjust to the way we operate.

Ethan Cates
Brewer, Maine

Jonathan Chappell
Bridgton, Maine
Comment: Reducing solid waste should be a shared responsibility among producers and consumers. We need relief from our disposable culture.

Stan Cohen
Bridgton, Maine

Catherine Crago
Bridgton, Maine
Comment: I believe that this is only fair, and more importantly, crucial if the human race is going to survive. It will incentivize corporations to stop single use prepackaged crap like lunchables.

Kate Fitzcharles
Bridgton, Maine

Jack Heffernan
Bridgton, Maine
Comment: My husband Jack and I have recycled in any way we can for at least 40 years. Still, more and more stuff comes to us in the mail. Product packaging of the simplest purchase, from a store to on-line, is overblown. Furthermore, most packing materials are pure waste and polluters. Living in the country, we regret having to buy some items on-line, but often have no choice when it comes to medications and other basic items no long available in small towns because of e-commerce. Please work to minimize damage to our world through packaging. Stop it at the source.

Mary Jewett
Bridgton, Maine

Robert Jones
Bridgton, Maine

Donna Joss
Bridgton, Maine

Natalie Kelliher
Bridgton, Maine

Jean Murphy
Bridgton, Maine
Comment: Bridgton recycling does its best, but the amount of plastic - and the burden of its disposal -- is overwhelming.

Lynne Gilbert
Bristol, Maine
Comment: It's about time! Let the corporations be responsible for the waste they create!

Edward Hodgdon
Bristol, Maine
Comment: We have to make a decision...are we, as a species, driven by a economic or a moral/ethical compass?

Joanna Holland
Bristol, Maine
Comment: Yes, we definitely need to push corporations to eliminate or limit plastic and other non easily sustainable packaging.

Alan Littlefield
Bristol, Maine
Comment: Reuse, decrease plastic , consume less

Kathleen Riess
Bristol, Maine
Comment: I absolutely support the concept of producer responsibility for packaging. They should be held accountable in some fashion for their profligate use of plastics.I would pay extra to avoid plastic. I am discouraged by Maine's inability to take and recycle the different plastics now. I have kept them in the hopes that one day we will again have a solution to recycle these materials.

Mariana Tupper
Bristol, Maine
Comment: Let's reduce and re-use MORE, so as to lessen the need for recycling. Next, let's give incentives for using recycled products. (One idea: list 'Recycling Heroes' on NRCM's website.)

John & Janet Fuller
Brooklin, Maine

Hendrik Gideonse
Brooklin, Maine
Comment: Do not forget to address the broader effort at public education on these and other environmental needs and tasks facing us. Recycling is intimately connected to fundamental energy reform as well as for all things environmental, we must deeply understand the implications of 'everything relates to everything else.' Greta Thunberg understands this for her generation, especially as we begin to grasp that we have borrowed it from them and so far failed in our stewardship for them.

Sonia Groesbeck
Brooklin, Maine
Comment: Please pass this law.

Sharlene John
Brooklin, Maine
Comment:

Claire Mortimer
Brooklin, Maine
Comment: Recycling is so important as a basic step to take to be responsible for trash we add to landfill. Creative solutions to this problem, that is not being adequately addressed in Maine, could create jobs and prevent more pollution of our land, air, water, and ocean.

Annie Porter
Brooklin, Maine

David Porter
Brooklin, Maine

Jane Whitney
Brooklin, Maine
Comment: The cost of recycling should not be my responsibility, when I have no control over the packaging choices made by corporations selling products to consumers.

Mary Sward
Brooks, Maine

Anne Ferrara
Brooksville, Maine
Comment: Every action to restore balance on our beloved Mother Earth is significant. This is part of the solution!!!

Elizabeth Hill
Brooksville, Maine
Comment: A friend from Sweden explained that after shopping at a grocery store, they could unwrap their purchases and leave the packaging as the store's responsibility to recycle. I try not to buy products packaged in plastic, use the bulk section at our local Coop, recycle, but dealing with the problem closer to the source would more effectively protect natural resources.

Catherine Moore
Brooksville, Maine

Jaremy Lynch
Brownfield, Maine

Jeffrey MacDonald
Brownville, Maine

Nancy Paprocki
Brownville, Maine
Comment: Recycling is difficult here. We have to take everything to the dump. They don't take glass and it hurts every time I throw glass out.

christine adamowicz
Brunswick, Maine

Charlotte Agell
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: This is so needed.

Donna Bann
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: We need to revamp our recycling programs due to changes in markets and the high level of importance that the environment is at this point. Please support improvements in recycling programs. Thank you!!!! Donna Bann

Brian Banton
Brunswick, Maine

Moriah Baribeau
Brunswick, Maine

Jean Bass
Brunswick, Maine

Nancy Bliss
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: I support recycling reform as we need to change our recycling habits at the state and local levels here in Maine as well as across our whole country and world for that matter. We need to urge manufacturers to produce products with less packaging, and we as consumers need to be aware of how items we want are being packaged. We need to find different recycling markets and constantly reduce, reuse and recycle and refuse. Also as part of any recycling reform we need to encourage composting on a major scale by using the services of some of the up and coming composting companies like Garbage to Garden servicing mid- Coast Maine. Nancy D. Bliss

Helen Boucher
Brunswick, Maine

Garrett Brann
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: There's only so much consumers can do. We need better, more cost-effective recycling programs and incentives to improve the amount of packaging that can be and is recycled.

Richard Brautigam
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: It is right that the producers be required to fashion products that can easily be recycled.

Peggy Brown
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: There is an urgent need to make recycling work in Maine and elsewhere. The increase in plastic packaging is alarming. We're being buried in plastic! Hoping our legislators take notice and take action.

Carolyn Bryant
Brunswick, Maine

Robert Burgess
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: This reform is badly needed to incent producers of unnecessary or non-recyclable materials to find better alternatives. I'm in total support.

Bruce Burnham
Brunswick, Maine

Celeste Caldwell
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Let's DO it!

Sarah Cline
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: please pass the "extended producer responsibility for packaging" law!!

Sue Ellen Damour
Brunswick, Maine

Christopher Dauphin
Brunswick, Maine

Christine Detroy
Brunswick, Maine

Jenny Donovan
Brunswick, Maine

Nick Feiler
Brunswick, Maine

John Fischer
Brunswick, Maine

Bruce Found
Brunswick, Maine

Susan Goodwin
Brunswick, Maine

Jennifer Granger
Brunswick, Maine

Holly Greene
Brunswick, Maine

Douglas Hardy
Brunswick, Maine

Marcia Harrington
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: We need to ask manufacturers to be responsible for helping take back and recycle their products and packaging. Throwing stuff into a landfill or incinerating it is not sustainable environmentally!

Kevin Hart
Brunswick, Maine

Sarah Harvey
Brunswick, Maine

Dorothy Hassfeld
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Manufactures have control of the materials they use for their goods. As a patron I need access as to weather or not the packaging is recyclable. If it is not I'll look for a different supplier or do without. Seems as if we need state legislation at the least, national legislation if we could get it at least just after the next election.

Harry Hopcroft
Brunswick, Maine

Whitney Houghton
Brunswick, Maine

Arlene Husman
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: We common folk also need to recycle everything we can. So do all the businesses, AND the corporations!

Larry Kalajainen
Brunswick, Maine

Barbara Kantner
Brunswick, Maine

sue Kennedy
Brunswick, Maine

Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Brunswick, Maine

Jeremy Litchfield
Brunswick, Maine

Anne Marino
Brunswick, Maine

John McKee
Brunswick, Maine

Suzanne McLain
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Now, more than ever!

Esther Mechler
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Why aren't the packaging companies pressured to minimize their products and make them bio-degradable - that would go a long way toward the solution

David Merrill
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Great cause. It’s about time we hold manufacturers responsible.

Bronda Niese
Brunswick, Maine

Dwight Paine
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Urging you to pass an 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law. Maine needs to d more.

Cindy Patterson
Brunswick, Maine

Catherine Payson
Brunswick, Maine

Sonni Peterman
Brunswick, Maine

Robert Pinette
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Hard as I try, I can't avoid purchasing products with non-recyclable packaging. Our town's landfill will be full by April 2021 and communities are paying the price for finding a way to dispose of what manufacturers pass down to us. Ask them to take responsibility and hopefully make changes that benefit us all. Thank you.

Stephanie Rayner
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: I am appalled at plastic packaging. If Canada can put in new effective laws at reuse-refill etc whey can't we! I HATE using those big Tide bottles, etc and then putting them in recycling...even the energy in recycling could be saved if we filled our own containers. This refill-reuse is not ONEROUS and would save so much waste.

Zachary Rothschild
Brunswick, Maine

Christine Rudalevige
Brunswick, Maine

Sam Saltonstall
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: It breaks my heart that I have to throw glass in the trash because our town can no longer afford to recycle it. We've got to do better. Surely as a state, we can come up with innovative solutions than reduce our impact on the Earth!

Steve Sandau
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Recycling has taken a bit hit lately. It would be good to get it back to being more useful.

Robin Schmidt
Brunswick, Maine

Marcia Sewall
Brunswick, Maine

Heather Sharkey
Brunswick, Maine

Peter Simmons
Brunswick, Maine

Christine Simonson
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: At last a reach to the source! It’s hard to win the game when all the players are not on the field. The packaging of all kinds of products is killing us - the manufacturers must take responsibility for sabotaging recycling efforts.

Gordon Smith
Brunswick, Maine

Craig Snapp
Brunswick, Maine

Tyler Spillane
Brunswick, Maine

Sue Stableford
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: We need manufacturers and companies to reduce the excessive packaging of products which seems to be universal across product lines. And, we need them to share costs to recycle the waste they produce.

Wayne Thibodeau
Brunswick, Maine

Joel Tompkins
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Common sense suggests that controlling the packaging that manufacturers and retailers use is a necessary step to get a handle on our trash and recycling problems. Manufacturers and retailers need to be brought into the loop to help solve these issues.

Annette Wakely
Brunswick, Maine

Mary Lee Ward
Brunswick, Maine

Loraine Washburn
Brunswick, Maine

Susan Weems
Brunswick, Maine

Margaret Wilson
Brunswick, Maine

Michael Wilson
Brunswick, Maine

Catharine Withers
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: Having separated glass by color in the 70's, and bemoaning to overabundance of plastic packing today, I cannot imagine abandoning our recycling efforts. We are happy to learn of your site and the work you undertake. Thank you.

Bonnie Wood
Brunswick, Maine

Stephen Wood
Brunswick, Maine

Linda Woodbury
Brunswick, Maine

Linda Wood-McCullough
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: As a long time educator, I have seen the enthusiasm for recycling among young people. I have worked on and been proud of the advances our state has made over the decades to reduce waste. It is devastating to see us considering moving backwards on this issue and I know we will pay the consequences both environmentally and economically in the future.

Dieuwke Zolas
Brunswick, Maine
Comment: It is time for these big energy corporations to take responsibility for the plastic disaster they have created. Complete and total disregard for the well being of our planet, animals and humans. Dieuwke Zolas

Deziree Mackillop
Bryant Pond, Maine

Diana Dunn
Buckfield, Maine
Comment: I strongly support this Recycling Reform Program. It is frustrating and wrong to have to mix recyclable materials in with trash, because there is no market.

Rosalind Ivens
Bucksport, Maine

Tracey Minervino
Bucksport, Maine

Michelle Moore
Bucksport, Maine

Tina Pitchford
Bucksport, Maine

Tammy Bodge-Terry
Burnham, Maine
Comment: I have always recycled cans, newspapers, plastic bottles, glass, office paper, etc. One day I went to our local 'dump' on a Saturday only to find out that our recycling trailer is gone. I asked what happened and the dump attendee informed me that we could no longer afford to pay for reccling as a town. I say as a planet we NEED to afford recycling! At a time when climate change, fighting pollution, and being green are needed more than ever, we cannot abandon this important program. Please help reform this so my town can participate once again.

Jeannette Segerson
Burnham, Maine

Therese Morin
Buxton, Maine
Comment: Please help fix the recycling programs in Maine!

Sean Theriault
Buxton, Maine

Patricia Dowse
Cambridge, Maine

Georganne Bendall
Camden, Maine

Barbara Buss
Camden, Maine

Anna Dembska
Camden, Maine

Carol Goodridge
Camden, Maine

Ann Harris
Camden, Maine

Elizabeth Henry
Camden, Maine

Nancy Jenkins
Camden, Maine
Comment: Recycling reform is the only way we can rid the world of the mountains of trash we create, each and every one of us, every day of the year.

Amy Knowles
Camden, Maine

Samantha Mortlock
Camden, Maine

Beedy Parker
Camden, Maine
Comment: Happy that we are going after plastic bags as a start, and that food waste is becoming a more public eissue, with more food donated, But, back to plastics, and specifically plastic in the oceans and food chain, we need to start think about going to natural, biodegradable fabrics, because it is synthetic fabrics, particularly the beloved fleece items, that break off particles and get washed into the watershed, and they don't breakdown. And making producers responsible for packaging is absolutely something that we should do!

Michael Remsen
Camden, Maine

Petra Remsen
Camden, Maine

Sarah Rheault
Camden, Maine

Roger Rittmaster
Camden, Maine

Stephanie Smith
Camden, Maine
Comment: The plastic keeps piling up! We need upstream regulations to discourage the use of plastics by manufacturers.

Sharon Staz
Camden, Maine

MOLLY STONE
Camden, Maine

Laurier Stonge
Camden, Maine
Comment: Recycling helps reduce our footprint against waste. I am recycling everything possible to help keep Maine beautiful versus a garbage dump.

David Wadstrup
Camden, Maine

Jan Warren
Camden, Maine

Suzanne Weiss
Camden, Maine

Pamela Cool
Canaan, Maine

Sharon Balzer
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Jodi Breau
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Daniel Chase
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Comment: Recycling efforts have been underway for some time, but progress seems to be minimal. A different approach is needed.

Brian Dietz
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Gena Doyle
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Comment: We've run out of time to delay solutions. It is time to act!

Jill Fogg
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Sara Gooch
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Comment: Now is the time for change. Do better.

Marianne Harmon
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Sophia Jackson
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Jennifer MacDonald
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Jeanne Najemy
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Jon Oxman
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Susan Payne
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Comment: I have diligently recycled for years, and strongly believe in its value. I don't want us to absorb the increasing costs it entails, however. Making producers responsible for the costs of recycling will help us financially and environmentally.

David Plimpton
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Bruce Rayner
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Cameron Robbins
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Meg Rogers
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Donald Rudalevige
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Suzanne Rudalevige
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Comment: We absolutely need manufacturers to use only recyclable plastic in their packaging... it seems that more and more packaging is being used. As a consumer it is always a relief to see that e.g a plastic cup is made of plant based material. It is not like we cannot produce this kind of plastic. Education is also crucial. Even with the best will, it is hard to know exactly what can be recycled and when biodegradable items should be put in the recycling rather than going to the landfill.

Marianne Schuman
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Comment: As a grandmother to 3 young children and a baby on its way, I have grave concerns about the state of the

environment. We need to rethink how we do everything. Changing packaging is an excellent, long overdue way to begin. Companies have been slowly responding and will respond more rapidly with legislative pressure from the states. The car companies now follow California's emission and mileage standards. It CAN happen. Thank you for spearheading.

Richard Sullivan
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Kiyo Tabery
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Nancy Witwicki
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Louis Hargan
Cape Neddick, Maine

Lt. Col Thomas Foley
Cape Porpoise, Maine
Comment: We need to continue recycling to save Maine's environment.

Thomas Foley
Cape Porpoise, Maine

Theodora Hanson
Cape Porpoise, Maine

David Jourdan
Cape Porpoise, Maine
Comment: We are avid recyclers and composers. It is frustrating that so much packaging is included in many products.

John Phillips
Cape Porpoise, Maine

Eric Goodale
Carmel, Maine

Karen Lavoie
Carmel, Maine

Andrea O'Neill-Knarr
Carmel, Maine
Comment: Finally.....a plan that makes sense!

bruce albiston
Carrabassett Valley, Maine

James Wilson
Carrabassett Valley, Maine

Zoe Zeerip
Carrabassett Valley, Maine

Lisa Boucher
Casco, Maine
Comment: The world and our oceans are deeply connected to our health, the worlds health and we must stop the plastic trash!

Rona Fried
Casco, Maine
Comment: Corporations should chip in! So tired of their wasteful packaging that I have little choice in buying and then recycling. I buy in bulk whenever I can, but am still stuck with way too much waste.

Keith Morehouse
Casco, Maine

Noah Codega
Castine, Maine

Sheila Corbett
Castine, Maine
Comment: To effectively protect our environment, to make a significant positive impact, change must be done legislatively, rather than by individual choice. We must work towards eliminating single use materials, especially plastics, which municipalities are collecting in large amounts but for which they find fewer and fewer recycling opportunities. Consumers and municipalities currently have no power to reduce the manufacturing use of pollutant materials and therefore are stuck with the cost burden. Ultimately, without legislative change, our environment and atmosphere are being degraded. The bottom line is that if a packaging material cannot be recycled or cleanly burned it must not be manufactured. We have the science and NRC of Maine is providing the vehicle for us to be more responsible stewards of our planet. I support them in this crucial endeavor. I hope you will too.

Allison Fleck
Castine, Maine

Gill I
Chamberlain, Maine

Stephanie Hampton
Chebeague Island, Maine

Michael Porter
Chebeague Island, Maine

Brenda Corkum
Chelsea, Maine

Wayne Kostiw
Chelsea, Maine

Don and Leslie Bush
Cherryfield, Maine
Comment: Recycling is the only way to save our planet.

Audra Christie
Cherryfield, Maine

Jeremy Lassen
Cherryfield, Maine

Ivey Fogg
Clinton, Maine
Comment: Anything man made should be made to be recyclable but since it doesn't happen that way we must find a solution to this GIGANTIC PROBLEM. We don't have lots of time either....

Barbara Luce
Clinton, Maine

Diane Nigro
Columbia Falls, Maine

Karen-Jo Young
Corea, Maine

Jenni Reis
Corinth, Maine

Kathryn Foertsch
Cornish, Maine
Comment: My business is in Sanford which recently banned any recycling from businesses. We throw out 12 cardboard boxes every day that could easily be recycled. But we also throw out 3 large sytrofoam boxes every day because the shippers can't ship wisely and combine orders. Most items that we receive are unnecessarily packed in boxes way too big with lots of Styrofoam to fill the gaps.

Janette Lynch
Cornish, Maine
Comment: We really need to improve recycling in Maine. We don't even have curbside recycling in my town because the town cannot afford it.

Abigail Rome
Cranberry Isles, Maine

Dirk Asherman
Cumberland Center, Maine
Comment: Consumers and municipalities want to do the right thing, please ask the businesses to do their part to reduce packaging and recycle!

Henry Bliss
Cumberland Center, Maine

Lee Buffinton
Cumberland Center, Maine

Linda Draper
Cumberland Center, Maine

Karyn Kurland
Cumberland Center, Maine

Maryann Larson
Cumberland Center, Maine
Comment: Paul Hawken wrote about the issue of corporations being more responsible for the products and waste they produce in his book 'Ecology of Commerce' probably 15 years ago. It's time.

Tyler McGinley
Cumberland Center, Maine

Nancy Read
Cumberland Center, Maine

Peter Rubins
Cumberland Center, Maine

Jana Spaulding
Cumberland Center, Maine

Donna Walter
Cumberland Center, Maine

Nancy Anderson
Cumberland Foreside, Maine

Jessica Cardosi
Cumberland Foreside, Maine

MARGERY GRUBER
Cumberland Foreside, Maine
Comment: Reduce the burden for the consumer who doesn't always have a choice.

Stephen Heinz
Cumberland Foreside, Maine
Comment: We need to recycle more and better. We need to fix things on the supply side. So much of recycling involves packaging. Too much of what is marked with a Plastic Recycling Symbol (PET) is NOT recycled.

Theodore Lakeman
Cumberland Foreside, Maine
Comment: Rock it !

Sarah Nichols
Cumberland Foreside, Maine

Jay Reighley
Cumberland Foreside, Maine

Ericka Gray
Cushing, Maine

Wendy Mitchell
Cushing, Maine

Kristi Niedermann
Cushing, Maine

Faeterri Silver
Cutler, Maine
Comment: Yes, I have been trying to make this point for over 40 years. Consumers have little choice as what to do with the packaging from products that they buy. Though I tend to buy in bulk at a health food store, many buy from large grocery chains. Therefore this is a great opportunity to help pay for the cost of recycling. I hope more entrepreneurs move forward on using the cardboard, glass, etc to turn into other usable products. Also credits for plastic polymers (like carbon credits) may move plastic recycling into a better place.

Roberta Atkinson
Damariscotta, Maine
Comment: An overwhelming problem which must be solved now! Everyone is responsible for the situation we are in.

Bill Bausch
Damariscotta, Maine
Comment: This is a great first step to correct the current situation of packaging that defies recycling. If we consumers and taxpayers insist on changes and use our purchasing choices to put pressure on manufacturers and distributors to move in an environmentally responsible direction, things will happen.

Sean Fleming
Damariscotta, Maine
Comment: The Nobleboro/Jefferson Transfer Station used to used to accept many plastics, but now only accepts #2 plastics. The other plastics are placed in the general trash.

Gabrielle Grunkemeyer
Damariscotta, Maine

kathryn Hyttel
Damariscotta, Maine

Elizabeth McPherson
Damariscotta, Maine
Comment: Yes, we need the producers to take full responsibility for their materials that can't be recycled. I cringe every time I end up with that kind of packaging. Let's keep pushing and prodding our lawmakers until they vigorously support reform of recycling in Maine.

Roger Panek
Damariscotta, Maine

Barnaby Porter
Damariscotta, Maine

Sara Anagnostis
Dayton, Maine
Comment: As an employee of Dental Lace I support this bill 100 percent!

John Bacon
Deer Isle, Maine

Jacqueline Davidson
Deer Isle, Maine

Dana Douglass
Deer Isle, Maine

Thomas Kellogg
Deer Isle, Maine

Ruth Lamdan
Deer Isle, Maine

Frederica Marshall
Deer Isle, Maine

Judith O'Callaghan
Deer Isle, Maine

Anne Wilson
Deer Isle, Maine
Comment: For the future of the earth and of our children, please pass an 'Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging' law.

Amy Hodgdon
Dennysville, Maine
Comment: PLEASE! We must do something!!!

Brandelyn Hodgdon
Dennysville, Maine

Summer Hodgdon
Dennysville, Maine

Robert Fritsch
Dexter, Maine
Comment: We must recycle to bring order in an increasingly throw-away society and keep the height of our trash piles down. It is the right and responsible thing to do in tnis day and age.

Laura Bridgman
Dixmont, Maine
Comment: Action to reduce plastic and packaging in Maine!

Diana Cookson
Dixmont, Maine
Comment: We need to minimize the use of plastic. Plastics are

toxins that are polluting our lands and waters and finding their ways into our bodies.

Lynne Lamstein
Dixmont, Maine

Don Pendleton
Dixmont, Maine
Comment: There needs to be a collaborative effort to work on this problem. The town's and communities are going in different directions.

Carole Boothroyd
Dover Foxcroft, Maine
Comment: Please help our municipalities with recycling efforts.

jessica kerr
Dover Foxcroft, Maine
Comment: I may collect all my recycling and be conscientious, but it would be better if so many things we buy didn't come in single-use plastic containers. The most crucial change has to take place at the level of manufacturing, packaging, and marketing. We must CHANGE the way products are marketed and delivered to consumers. Not just TRY to recycle the overwhelming tide of plastic continuously flowing.

Susan Ramsey
Dover Foxcroft, Maine
Comment: Let's keep Maine beautiful!

Joseph Sands
Dover Foxcroft, Maine
Comment: Great Idea! Someone needs to change the packaging for soda and beer containers.

Susan Stevens
Dover Foxcroft, Maine

Joan Drappeau
Dresden, Maine

Robert Fesler
Dresden, Maine
Comment: Our obligation is to protect our Earth. Cleaning up after ourselves is a basic duty. Over the years, recycling has been a good way to participate in this effort. Now that it has become more challenging to recycle, we need to face the problem and find better solutions. Part of this will be legislating a requirement that corporations take responsibility for wasteful packaging, an effort I strongly support.

Don Gleason
Dresden, Maine
Comment: Even though this will help shift the thinking about waste, the costs will still be born by consumers.

Laura Ronan
Dresden, Maine

Judy Tunkle
Dresden, Maine

Wayne Almy
Durham, Maine

Roberta Brezinski
Durham, Maine
Comment: Producers need incentive to create packaging that creates only minimal yet wholly recyclable waste.

Kevin Kearns
Durham, Maine
Comment: Please continue to support recycle programs. Especially for plastics. We are filling our oceans and killing our wildlife as a result.

Kristin Nam
Durham, Maine

Catherine Oldham-Creamer
Durham, Maine

Deborah Wiggs
East Blue Hill, Maine

Nancy Adams
East Boothbay, Maine
Comment: Producers should pay for packaging not the consumers. This will be an incentive to make packaging materials more sustainable.

Doreen Dun
East Boothbay, Maine

Pamela Lauzau
East Boothbay, Maine

Francine Rondina
East Boothbay, Maine

Tom Rondina
East Boothbay, Maine

Elizabeth Wing
East Boothbay, Maine

Sharon Dean
East Machias, Maine

Connie Harter-Bagley
East Machias, Maine

Katherine Holmes
East Machias, Maine

Karl Pingree
East Machias, Maine

Judith Valentine
East Machias, Maine

Perin Yates-Gray
East Machias, Maine

Kirk Fernald
East Millinocket, Maine

Sara Faull
East Orland, Maine

Matthew Freytag
East Vassalboro, Maine

M Leach
East Waterboro, Maine

Kenneth McNally
East Waterboro, Maine

Deborah Burke
East Wilton, Maine

Amy LeBlanc
East Wilton, Maine
Comment: Go for it ...it's about time!

Ellen Trask
Easton, Maine

Robert Godfrey
Eastport, Maine

Marged Higginson
Eastport, Maine
Comment: Producer responsibility for packaging is key to the effort, as is processing recycled materials right here in the U.S.A.

Jean Schild
Eastport, Maine
Comment: Please support recycling. Plastics are killing the ocean

Lora Whelan
Eastport, Maine
Comment: We need to move into new territory with recycling. As someone who has volunteered with recycling efforts for over 20 years, and once upon a time received the Maine Resource Recovery Association Volunteer of the Year award, I've stood shoulder-to-shoulder with others only to see years of effort disrupted by market forces and political wills. No matter how hard we try, with our current model we are dependent on external markets. We need to change the starting point rather than the ending point -- challenging manufacturers to reduce, reuse and recycle in their manufacturing processes and in their business-to-customer delivery and packaging. Thank you.

Julie Hayes
Eddington, Maine

Sarah Nickerson
Eddington, Maine
Comment: I want to make Maine, New England and the world a cleaner place for mine and my children's future. There is so much potential for profitable change. Let's do this!

Lisa Panepinto
Eddington, Maine

Richard Annino
Edgecomb, Maine
Comment: I hope that the recycling reform can provide a way for industries that use recycled material to build, create, etc can be right here in Maine. Everyone wins and there are more jobs as well.

Alex Gordon
Edgecomb, Maine

Kathleen Halm
Edgecomb, Maine

Rob Hoffman
Edgecomb, Maine

Sara Castellez
Eliot, Maine

Timothy Colson
Eliot, Maine

Peter Derby
Eliot, Maine
Comment: Abandoning recycling and dumping everything into landfills like we once did is NOT moving in the right direction. We need to find a solution that is more sustainable than shipping everything to China. That said, I understand that China is still a possible customer if we pay more attention to how well we separate and bundle what we send them.

Jennifer Dunn
Eliot, Maine

Rosemary Gordon
Eliot, Maine

Laura Pope
Eliot, Maine
Comment: We need much better recycling. It's absurd that we don't recycle glass very much. The tidal wave of electronic

waste needs to be resolved in better and more recycling centers. Doing all of this would mean more jobs!

Roni Bloom
Ellsworth, Maine

BRENDA CARTWRIGHT
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: Thank you. I look forward to getting more involved.

Steven Ciciotte
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: The current process for recycling and waste is unsustainable. Please consider this petition as a viable solution. Thank you.

Christine Cotton
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: The recycling program in Ellsworth Maine accepts so little it's practically non-existent! They don't take glass anymore...only #1 and #2 and they have to be cylinder shaped, with the top narrower than the bottom. It's ridiculous that so many other Plastic and glass items are just going to landfills. ..and then eventually, I'm afraid, into our oceans! Something needs to be desperately done to improve recycling all over our country.

Edward Farwell
Ellsworth, Maine

Katina Fuller
Ellsworth, Maine

Jacqueline Grohoski
Ellsworth, Maine

Martha B. Higgins
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: The carrot approach hasn't worked, it's time to bring out the stick, or at least a branch!

Lori Kissinger
Ellsworth, Maine

Renee La Casse
Ellsworth, Maine

Wendy Lessard
Ellsworth, Maine

Christa Little-Siebold
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: Its time to enact and lead our nation from Maine by reducing recycling/garbage fees with simple actions as proposed by NRCM. National Corporations need to come to the table and reduce their packaging responsibly.

Dodie Longfellow
Ellsworth, Maine

Monica McAndrews
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: I support real recycling reform in Maine now.

Catherine Noparstak
Ellsworth, Maine

Margaret Ober
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: Thank you for being part of the solutions to reform recycling in Maine. Please work with the ideas presented in the plan to alleviate the increased trash in the waste stream, and in the recycle bin. So many types of plastic and even glass are no longer accepted at my center in Ellsworth. Producers of packaging materials must play their huge part in effecting the changes. Margaret Ober

Nancy Patterson
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: This is much needed. Everyone needs to pull together and get this done for the sake of our planet.

Amy Richards
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: Our recycling programs are reduced rather than growing. We need create incentives for new methods that are more effective. We can't stop recycling because China doesn't want our trash anymore.

Bronwen Rogers-Venema
Ellsworth, Maine

Julia Ventresco
Ellsworth, Maine

Heather Wagner
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: Recycling is the least we can do to help better use our finite resources!

Jada Wensman
Ellsworth, Maine
Comment: Ellsworth recycling is so minimal, that the majority of all products go straight to the landfill. Let's find a solution!

Mark Whiting
Ellsworth, Maine

David A. Woolsey
Ellsworth, Maine

Rosa Livonius
Etna, Maine
Comment: The plastic burden is too great for consumer based

recycling efforts. Reduce or eliminate single use and plastic packaging.

Doris Neptune
Exeter, Maine

Ruth Provost
Exeter, Maine

Laura Sholtz
Exeter, Maine

Richard Flanagan
Fairfield, Maine

Edward Griffith
Fairfield, Maine

Janice Hallee
Fairfield, Maine

Elizabeth Lykling
Fairfield, Maine

Sally Melcher-McKeagney
Fairfield, Maine
Comment: Because our beloved planet has a finite number of resources, and because being wasteful is something our parents and grandparents would scold us about, if they only knew, we need to expand, not lessen, our recycling efforts. A dear friend of mine, in her 80s, tells a story about her mother, who, upon seeing all the extra store packaging for individual items said, 'We will be buried by our trash!' And that is coming true now. We must stop it.

Lyn Rowden
Fairfield, Maine
Comment: Get these product makers to make packaging that is easily recycled. Cut out so much waste esp in uge plastice containers for a minute amount of pills, the heavy plastic coverings on items that don't even need packages and make it so we can use our own reusable jars and bottles in the grocery stores. Thank you

Paul Wheelock
Fairfield, Maine
Comment: Let's take action which demands that those packaging of goods implement packaging practice that reduce & minimize the packaging material used. For example, breakfast cereal box that are 2/3 filled be reduced in size. If 'settling' is the real issue then the settling of the product out to be done while packaging, mathematically calculating the anticipated size change. None of this is rocket science and the industry know how to do this.

Catherine Chamberlain
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Plastic containers contribute to so much waste. It's time to rethink over packaging.

Debra Coyman
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: I have believed for years that the manufacturers who design packaging should bear the responsibility for the aftermath, whether it turns to trash or is reusable/recyclable. Communities and their taxpayers should not have to bear the end result of non-sustainable and wasteful packaging choices. Recent changes in the market for recyclables have put additional pressure on municipalities, with likely negative results for the environment. I believe lawmakers should support extended producer responsibility for packaging in Maine.

Jennifer Cummings
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Thank you for considering this important measure.

Isabel Denham
Falmouth, Maine

Aaron Dries
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Make recycling work please.

Alicia Faller
Falmouth, Maine

Frederick Farquhar
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Let's make more recyclable packaging, or better still, let's use less packaging!

James Goggin
Falmouth, Maine

Annette Gould
Falmouth, Maine

Layne Gregory
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Saving our planet starts at home.

Karen Harrell
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: I was pleased to see the interns us in Falmouth. Many had been including the wrong items into the recycling bins. We all must attempt to improve our lives and the environment.

Mollie Heron
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: I am very upset that the town I live in, Falmouth, has not signed up to support this bill. I also have a summer camp in Orland, and after very recently going to taxpayer

expense to build their own Recycling Center, it is no longer open as often as it used to be because they can't sell everything.

Pat Ianni
Falmouth, Maine

Karen Jacobsen
Falmouth, Maine

Judy Labrasca
Falmouth, Maine

Sara Leonard
Falmouth, Maine

Emily Meserve
Falmouth, Maine

Sydney Patten
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Recycling Reform is EXTREMELY important to me! And my family, and my children.

Anne Payson
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Recycling reform is badly needed, as the current system is piecemeal and puts an unfair burden on municipalities and consumers.

Paul Retherford
Falmouth, Maine

Patti Roderick
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: As the market for recycled materials have shrunk, the cost is going up. We need to keep Mainers motivated to recycle and a good start is reducing our burden by passing this bill. It is being done by so many larger corporations worldwide, why not in Maine?

Doris Salzman
Falmouth, Maine

Melanie Sturm
Falmouth, Maine

Barbara Trentacosta
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: The recycling system has long frustrated me! Does this cardboard container with food stains recycle, etc? So I'm all for reform!!!

Lisa Vicens
Falmouth, Maine

Diana Washburn
Falmouth, Maine

Renee Wolff
Falmouth, Maine
Comment: Recycling is a key and the burden should be on producers as well as consumers, as it is in most other countries.

Thomas Woodruff
Falmouth, Maine

Sue Kistenmacher
Farmingdale, Maine

Sarah Land
Farmingdale, Maine

Renee Page
Farmingdale, Maine

Andrew Barton
Farmington, Maine

Kelly Bentley
Farmington, Maine

Camille Blanchet
Farmington, Maine

Caitlin Bogar
Farmington, Maine

Patricia Chick
Farmington, Maine

Sarah Collins
Farmington, Maine

Drew Crockett
Farmington, Maine

Denisa Cundick
Farmington, Maine

Rebecca Dennison
Farmington, Maine

Emery Goff
Farmington, Maine
Comment: We live in Senior Housing, want to be able to recycle more here.

Kevin Goodoak
Farmington, Maine

Daniel Hale
Farmington, Maine
Comment: Let's reform recycling!

Sylvia Howes
Farmington, Maine

Comment: We need a comprehensive recycling program in Maine. Everything needs to be recycled. Manufacturers need to take responsibility for their packaging, not just bottles & cans. All Plastics need to be reused & recycled, not just #2 like we have in Farmington. Our wasteful society is a disgrace.

Joy Jancewicz
Farmington, Maine

Lucas Kellett
Farmington, Maine

Nicole Kellett
Farmington, Maine
Comment: We need to end our reliance and cost of plastic!

David Lawless
Farmington, Maine

Mary Lynch
Farmington, Maine

Mary Sinclair
Farmington, Maine

Morgan Spencer
Farmington, Maine

Donna Wheeler
Farmington, Maine
Comment: I have been waiting for a way to have the companies using this packaging to step up and find better alternatives. This is a huge step in the right direction!

Paula Widmer
Farmington, Maine
Comment: Enlightened folk support recycling in its most efficacious forms. Most voters in Maine want the best recycling options. Pay attention to those of us who are aware of smart recycling.

Jane Woodman
Farmington, Maine

Velda Yamashiro
Farmington, Maine

Ellen Hopkins
Farmington Falls, Maine

Lisa Lisius
Farmington Falls, Maine

Barrie Colbath
Fayette, Maine

Holly Hughes
Frankfort, Maine

Becka Gagne
Franklin, Maine
Comment: We need recycling reform now!

Soren Hansen
Franklin, Maine

Satya Khalsa
Franklin, Maine
Comment: This is so important now and for the future. Let us deliver a home planet to our children that is full of life, not landfills.

Alice Noyes
Franklin, Maine
Comment: Very important work for our environment.

Medea Steinman
Franklin, Maine

Meredith Coffin
Freedom, Maine
Comment: I help represent my community on the BOD of our recycling facility, the Unity Area Regional Recycling Facility, UARRC. It is owned and managed by 8 towns and this bill will go a long way in helping towns offset their financial participation in this facility. Recyclables used to be worth a lot more than today. The viability of this center is in question. We need to keep this facility thriving so we can continue to responsibly recycle even more than what we do today.

Rhoda Waller
Freedom, Maine

Mareisa Weil
Freedom, Maine
Comment: This is so important and Maine should take strong action on this issue! Dirigo.

Lissa Widoff
Freedom, Maine

Tegan Barber
Freeport, Maine

Jane Baxter
Freeport, Maine

Lucy Birkett
Freeport, Maine

Pam Blake
Freeport, Maine
Comment: If those who create packaging waste have to take financial responsibility for cleaning it up, I'll bet they will much more quickly find a way to reduce the waste stream.

Edward Brainard
Freeport, Maine
Comment: Maine needs a statewide solution to reduce waste and increase recycling.

James Chute
Freeport, Maine

Noah Cummings
Freeport, Maine

Kristen Dorsey
Freeport, Maine

Andrea Feigner
Freeport, Maine

Michael Fenderson
Freeport, Maine
Comment: Maine has been a leader at times in the efforts to recycle. This is a key moment to double these efforts to reject pollutants and lead the way towards green solutions to a warming planet.

Susan Hancock
Freeport, Maine

Mair Honan
Freeport, Maine
Comment: So very important and maine can do it.

Stephen Joyce
Freeport, Maine
Comment: we should do what we can to keep plastics out of our oceans and landfills. thank you.

Lisa Kelley
Freeport, Maine

Vicki Kilborn
Freeport, Maine

G Clayton Kyle
Freeport, Maine

Thomas Lawton
Freeport, Maine

Doug Leland
Freeport, Maine
Comment: We can do better ... we need to do better. This legislation will bring the necessary parties together to see that we do in a responsible and collaborative manner.

Florence Lusk
Freeport, Maine
Comment: Reducing the amount of packaging AT THE SOURCE makes so much sense.

Douglas Martin
Freeport, Maine

Russell Martin
Freeport, Maine

Barbara McHugh
Freeport, Maine
Comment: This is very important. I strongly encourage all efforts to reduce unnecessary waste in our community.

Mari Miya
Freeport, Maine

Nicholas Nelsonwood
Freeport, Maine

Theresa Oleksiw
Freeport, Maine

Josh Olins
Freeport, Maine

Yacob Olins
Freeport, Maine

Hannah Osborne
Freeport, Maine

Michael Perry
Freeport, Maine
Comment: Thank you for guiding us toward a healthier State and planet for all people. Voting this year is critical for courageous candidates that stand for an interconnected planet working for the well being of all our children

Daniel Piltch
Freeport, Maine

Albert Presgraves
Freeport, Maine
Comment: This will help to reduce packaging waste, which has the shortest useful life of any product. Every little bit helps reduce impacts on the environment.

Rick Rhea
Freeport, Maine

Mary Rial
Freeport, Maine

Kate Rosenfeld
Freeport, Maine

Stephanie Scherr
Freeport, Maine

Carol Southall
Freeport, Maine
Comment: No more plastic bags!!!

Allison Starr
Freeport, Maine

Valy Steverlynck-Horne
Freeport, Maine

Caroline Thorne-Lyman
Freeport, Maine
Comment: Yes!Yes!Yes! Corporations need to take responsibility for recycling what they make!

Pamela VanVolkenburgh
Freeport, Maine

William Vaughan
Freeport, Maine
Comment: Please take action to update our recycling laws and procedures here in Maine.

David Zamarripa
Freeport, Maine
Comment: I fully support an extended producer responsibility law in order to help better manage our waste production and disposal. Thank you for all of your efforts and successes.

Susan Alexander
Friendship, Maine

Annelle Miller
Friendship, Maine
Comment: This impacts all property tax payers in Maine. As landfills fill up, the cost to towns and villages for trash disposal increase.

Robert Nash
Friendship, Maine
Comment: We need to be able to recycle all plastic. Reduce plastic use? Yes. But plastic is not going away. We need to do something with it.

Richard Nelson
Friendship, Maine

Nora Schwarz
Fryeburg, Maine

Ralph Smith
Fryeburg, Maine

Elizabeth Cuprak
Gardiner, Maine

Kristen Genovese
Gardiner, Maine

Ilana Gilg
Gardiner, Maine

Alice Gouge
Gardiner, Maine
Comment: I support recycling reform and further education

Levi Hahn
Gardiner, Maine

Christopher St. John
Gardiner, Maine

Eunice St. John
Gardiner, Maine

Allison Wells
Gardiner, Maine

Sheila Schoolcraft
Garland, Maine

Lee Cooper
Georgetown, Maine
Comment: Banning plastic bags is a great idea, thank you. BUT we need a comprehensive state composting program and require composting materials to be used wherever possible, recyclable materials next.

Alison Freeman
Georgetown, Maine

Chris Gosster
Georgetown, Maine

Jonathan Kimball
Georgetown, Maine

Rachel Madsen
Georgetown, Maine

Sandy Maggied
Georgetown, Maine
Comment: I've been saying this for ages! Manufacturers need to step up and take responsibility for the excessive waste they produce, sell with their product, then wash their hands of and walk away! Now look what a mess this planet has! Use your profits to clean up after yourself!

Elizabeth Sky-McIlvain
Georgetown, Maine
Comment: Small towns like mine have drastically cut back on recycling due to cost, while at the same time as an increasing number of the products we purchase are over-packaged in plastic. Requiring product producers to share in the recycling solution is sensible. Produce packaging, shipping containers, product packaging (and more) can all be improved with

forward-thinking and incentives for inventive/new solutions. This would be an important start!

David Tudor
Georgetown, Maine

Lori (Lorraine C.) Arsenault
Gorham, Maine
Comment: Individuals and companies, let's choose to make a difference by choosing to purchase and produce the items with reusable or recyclable packaging, and reduce waste of all kinds. Practice good responsible habits to reinvent, repair, regenerate, reuse, reduce, and recycle. Let's all do this together. And also lead and support legislation like this.

Rebecca Badeau
Gorham, Maine

Mary E Fogg Phd
Gorham, Maine

Joseph Gardner
Gorham, Maine

Ronald Graff
Gorham, Maine

Sean Hoskins
Gorham, Maine

Nancy Innes
Gorham, Maine

Isabelle Jackson
Gorham, Maine

Sarah Kasprzak
Gorham, Maine

Oksana Lane
Gorham, Maine
Comment: Thanks! Good idea

Robert Marsh
Gorham, Maine
Comment: I want to help in any way possible to curb the amount of trash that gets incinerated by recycling all that I can. Everyone needs to recycle and conserve to save Our Planet. This Big Blue Marble is everyone's and everyone has to understand the importance of recycling.

Rhonda Millett
Gorham, Maine

Barbara O'Brien
Gorham, Maine
Comment: I'm a staunch believer in recycling & reducing dependence on plastics. Those beliefs guide my choices whenever I make purchases or go into the voting booth. Manufacturers should always be encouraged to make & package their products in earth-friendly, responsible ways, & to embrace recycling like their business depended on it.

Daniel Sanford
Gorham, Maine

Cynthia Simpson
Gorham, Maine

Celeste Mittelhauser
Gouldsboro, Maine

Marina Mooney
Gouldsboro, Maine

Elizabeth Moran
Gouldsboro, Maine

Penelope Tingle
Gouldsboro, Maine

Jacob (Jake) Austin
Gray, Maine

Jayne Chandler
Gray, Maine
Comment: The makers who profit from the use of materials that need to be recycled should be the ones who pay for the cost of that recycling or find a material that does not need to be recycled.

Krista Chappell
Gray, Maine

Noelle Forrest
Gray, Maine
Comment: Description of the recycling reform should clearly indicate where the money the PRO uses to reimburse municipalities comes from.

Louise Hinkley
Gray, Maine

Helena Ives
Gray, Maine

Abigail Mann
Gray, Maine
Comment: Nothing will change until companies commit to using packaging materials that are both renewable, reusable, and easily as well as safely recycled.

Rachel Lyn Rumson
Gray, Maine

Jan Strout
Gray, Maine

Michael Ward
Gray, Maine

Sydney Abramovich
Greenbush, Maine

Susan Allison
Greene, Maine

Jane Daugustine
Greene, Maine

Alissa Frechette
Greene, Maine

Jiy Stewart
Greene, Maine

Russell Stewart
Greene, Maine

Bruce Wood
Greenville, Maine
Comment: Haven't we messed up this planet enough? With Amazon and Walmart increasing their shipping to your home it won't be too long before there are no trees left to make cardboard boxes which never seem to be recycled. Decades ago it was 'a paperless society'. Really? Why do we need all this packaging? It just increases the cost to the manufacturer and ultimately, us. I recycle everything that I possible can.

Stacey Sandvoss
Greenwood, Maine

Donna Inglehart
Guilford, Maine

Nancy Bixler
Hallowell, Maine

Sylvie Charron
Hallowell, Maine
Comment: As a member of the recycling committee for the city of Hallowell, Maine, I fully support a move to improve recycling options and make manufacturers more responsible for the trash and packaging they generate.

Michael Hudak
Hallowell, Maine

Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama
Hallowell, Maine

Dale McCormick
Hallowell, Maine

Judith McKernan
Hallowell, Maine

NANCY MURRAY
Hallowell, Maine

Julie Olson
Hallowell, Maine

Sam Shain
Hallowell, Maine

Jane Swain
Hallowell, Maine

Tristan Taber
Hallowell, Maine

Emmie Theberge
Hallowell, Maine

Jean Adamson
Hampden, Maine
Comment: Please help prevent wasteful packaging which will keep our environment clean. Reformed recycling will help reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Arthur Benson
Hampden, Maine

Kelsey Conley
Hampden, Maine
Comment: Our current recycling infrastructure is weak, it is entirely vulnerable to market value and thus puts an insane cost of $16-17.5 million per year onto Maine taxpayers. This means that Maine consumers are bearing the burden twice over, they are buy the products and then paying for the end of life care of the packaging they came in. With market value for recyclable materials falling, Maine municipalities have been forced to decide between raising taxes or cutting recycling programs. Adopting an EPR for packaging bill would increase the accessibility of recycling to Mainers, strengthen the infrastructure of Maine's recycling programs, incentivize companies to establish more eco-friendly packaging, and divert waste from our landfills and incinerators, all without increasing the burden of cost on Mainers. EPR is the way of the world because it just makes sense and it is time for Maine to catch up.

Stephen Estes
Hampden, Maine
Comment: Long over due!!

Wally Jakubas
Hampden, Maine
Comment: All of the plastic we use for packaging should either be recyclable or biodegradable.

William Lippincott
Hampden, Maine

Comment: We need to reverse the trend of towns eliminating their recycling programs; it makes sense to address the source of the problem rather then put the burden on town's budgets.

Tiffany McIntosh
Hampden, Maine

Pamela Tremblay
hampden, Maine

Kathryn Walsh
Hampden, Maine
Comment: It's about time!

Susan White
Hampden, Maine
Comment: Maine was in the vanguard with our bottle bill--let's maintain our leadership position by supporting recycling reform!

Sam Bergman
Hancock, Maine

Antonio Blasi
Hancock, Maine

Mary C. Dillon
Hancock, Maine

Bianka Fuksman
Hancock, Maine

Barbara McClure
Hancock, Maine

Cheryl Rubin
Hancock, Maine

Irving Robinson
Hanover, Maine

Lisa Jae
Harborside, Maine

Maggie Strickland
Harmony, Maine

John Berry
Harpswell, Maine

Martha Burtt
Harpswell, Maine

Kara Douglas
Harpswell, Maine

Hannah Dring
Harpswell, Maine

Cheryl Golek
Harpswell, Maine

harriette griffin
Harpswell, Maine
Comment: This is a no-brainer.

Bruce Macdougal
Harpswell, Maine

Prescott McCurdy
Harpswell, Maine
Comment: i AGREE

Helen Norton
Harpswell, Maine
Comment: How is it possible to reform recycling in Maine when the buyers and actual recyclers are unavailable. I am very much in favor of reforming how companies package their products. It is absolutely disgusting that in many instances the items in some packages I receive are minute in relation to the size of the container.

Angelina Simmons
Harpswell, Maine

Ann Standridge
Harpswell, Maine
Comment: I think Maine needs to ban any materials that can't be recycled. Also I think our packaging needs to be simplified. I still see items in the stores that are wrapped and double wrapped when I don't think they need to be.

Deirdre Strachan
Harpswell, Maine

Burton Taylor
Harpswell, Maine

Crystal Toothaker
Harpswell, Maine

Katie Walter
Harpswell, Maine

Brian Dyer Stewart
Harrington, Maine
Comment: It's so basic to our existence. We must take this on.

Pam Dyer-Stewart
Harrington, Maine
Comment: This is URGENT!! Producers must take responsibility for the products they create and the cost of recycling. Consumers must participate in recycling efforts. Our environment depends on it. Reform recycling in Maine!!

Gail Moorhouse
Harrington, Maine

Mary Winchell
Harrington, Maine

Albert Friend
Harrison, Maine

John Krasowski
Harrison, Maine

Emily Savard
Harrison, Maine

Lily Turner
Harrison, Maine

William Turner
Harrison, Maine
Comment: Recycling all plastic is critical.

Daniel McCaw
Hartland, Maine

David Mahoney
Hebron, Maine

Penelope Andrews
Hermon, Maine
Comment: Dear Maine Lawmakers: Please to pass an "extended producer responsibility for packaging" law, a solution that is used world-wide to make corporations share in the cost of delivering recycling programs.

Patricia Barber
Hiram, Maine
Comment: We all want to do the best recycling we can. But now the rules have changed- you cant recycle plastic bags, certain plastics are or maybe are not recyclable, its so confusing. We also need to ban styrofoam and single use plastics NOW- dont use covid for an excuse. Back on track with the ban on plastic bags, styrofoam etc.

Diane Fitzgerald
Hiram, Maine

Andrew Bryan
Holden, Maine

Linda D'Alessio
Holden, Maine

Gabby Gammon
Holden, Maine

Paul Halvachs
Holden, Maine
Comment: Our town recently went from no-sort curbside recycling to no recycling at all. We have moved backwards about 20 years, if not more. It is heartbreaking to throw plastics and tin cans into the weekly garbage collection. I subscribe to home delivery of the Bangor Daily News, but I may have to cancel this because I now have old papers piling sky-high, and have no idea what to do with them. I did not want to go on-line to view the paper, but feel there is not much choice.

Ann Pedreschi
Holden, Maine

Nancy Roberts
Holden, Maine

Jeff Tague
Holden, Maine
Comment: Holden is sending everything to the landfill until the fiber right facility comes online which has been delayed for over a year. Meanwhile, the recyclables are piling up in my basement waiting for the new facility to begin accepting all waste. Why can Bangor recycle, and all these other towns just throw their recyclables in the landfill? Shouldn't it cost less if they all pool together????

Jackie Bubier
Hollis Center, Maine

Michael Chapman
Hollis Center, Maine

Alison Fisk
Hollis Center, Maine

Doris Luther
Hollis Center, Maine

Eric Manahan
Hollis Center, Maine

Richard McGonagle
Hollis Center, Maine
Comment: It not only needs to be maintained but expanded. It is vital to us as a species to find ways to recycle as much of our 'trash' as we possibly can.

Alyson Flemming
Hope, Maine

Willow Hall
Hope, Maine
Comment: Because an economic incentive is essential for most reforms within a capitalist society, we need to shift the burden of the lifecycle cost of a product to the manufacturer. When disposal, as well as production of the product is factored into commercial price, the incentive to create durable products with minimal packaging will create an essential shift in stemming the flow of wate into our landfills and incinerators.

Marcie Howard
Hope, Maine

Ron Smith
Hope, Maine

Shonna Davis
Houlton, Maine

Corinne Sternlieb
Houlton, Maine
Comment: We need to admit to ourselves that this is a bery crucial pressing problem. We can do this, we just need to put shoulders to wheel.

Esther Anne
Indian Island, Maine
Comment: Please pass an extended producer responsibility packaging law, make the corporations uphold their responsibility

Kyle Lolar
Indian Island, Maine
Comment: As a tribal citizen of the Penobscot Nation, my ancestors and elders have fought long an hard to keep the lands we today called Maine a healthy ecosystem. The time has come to put the responsibility of production packaging on those who create the items. With this pressure, these parties will begin a process of creating out of necessity. This then which will help your future generations including the tribal people who help those who came to these lands 500 years ago to now.

Kim Roberts
Industry, Maine
Comment: We are watching our local recycling and transfer stations become unable to accept/offer recycling. Unacceptable! Let’s find a new solution together as a state!

BARRY SMITH
Island Falls, Maine
Comment: Recycle, recycle, and recycle please. Thank you.

Daniels Ellis
Isle au Haut, Maine
Comment: Island trash disposal is ever more complicated than mainland!

Christine Hill
Isle au Haut, Maine

Marjorie Mills
Islesboro, Maine
Comment: Let’s do it right!

Tom Tutor
Islesboro, Maine

Jacob Harding
Jackson, Maine

Mary Kaldenbaugh
Jackson, Maine
Comment: We cannot abandon our good effort of recycling now. Please adopt a solution that calls on the worlds producers to share in recycling. It makes human sense.

Bruce Littlefield
Jackson, Maine

Susan Cassidy
Jay, Maine
Comment: We must take control over wasteful behavior.

Jayne Costa
Jay, Maine

Andrew Allen
Jefferson, Maine
Comment: A similar requirement needs to be implemented requiring bulk mailers sending unsolicited postal mail to pay a fee toward recycling programs throughout the state, and to use only 100% recyclable paper content.

Jennifer Brennan
Jefferson, Maine

Ryan Dennett
Jefferson, Maine

Carol Howell
Jefferson, Maine
Comment: This is a very good place to start....a long term solution.

Jon Olsen
Jefferson, Maine

Heather Geel
Jonesboro, Maine

Jennifer Prout
Jonesboro, Maine

John Burke
Jonesport, Maine
Comment: Our publicly supported 'Dump' and recycling center (Pleasant River Solid Waste Transfer Station), in Columbia Falls, Maine ... needs support from the State to withstand the attack from a 'Private' company, that want's to put the public station 'out of business' ! If we can't get the support necessary for PRSWS to continue ... we'll have a 'for-profit' entity that will eventually raise the fees for garbage, as well as recycling ! Let's get the dump in gear, thank you !

Lisa Noreen
Jonesport, Maine

Janelle Edwards
Kenduskeag, Maine

Nicholas Bartenhagen
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: Recycling is vital to keep trash off our roadways and out of our water ways. Please work to make recycling more efficient and to reduce the burden on taxpayers. PLEASE work on solutions to make corporations share in the cost of delivering recycling programs. PLEASE pass an 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law.

Tom Berry
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: For both environmental protection and economic reasons, we need to be able to effectively, efficiently, and economically recycle as much human-made material as possible. For far too long, companies have been able to create packaging and other materials that are difficult or impossible to recycle. The obvious result has been that they have never borne any part of the burden of paying for disposal of those materials once they have been used by the consumers who bought them from those same companies. They have, instead, gotten off 'scot-free'. Common sense of fairness demands that this must change.

Mary Beth Brown
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: Please consider the long term effects on our state and world if a comprehensive recycling program does not exist. Thank you

Grace Cain
Kennebunk, Maine

Samantha Chaves
Kennebunk, Maine

Bruce Church
Kennebunk, Maine

Catherine Clark
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: let's work something out!!

Anthony Dater
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: 21st Century packaging engineering should and must develop packaging materias that bio-degrade at the same rate (or quicker) as corrugated cardboard and end up in the oceans, other waterbodies and composting facilities as physically, biologically and chemically benign as corrugated cardboard. Ban any packaging that does not meet this standard.

Lynn Domaschko
Kennebunk, Maine

Jen Gironda
Kennebunk, Maine

Bill Grabin
Kennebunk, Maine

Andrea Kimmich
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: What fantastic news! Sensible and sorely needed! We will never be able to keep up with the waste we're currently producing - both in terms of kind (plastics/synthetics) as well as the levels its currently being produced. And there's no excuse for not reaping the benefits of food waste - which is so easily converted into compost. Best is to make producers - those profiting from production - take responsibility for their product's end-game ala cradle-to-grave design/planning. in the future to obtain any patent, the plan for that products eventual disposal should be a required criteria. Thanks for moving forward on this!~.

Angela Leblanc
Kennebunk, Maine

Jolene Lemelin
Kennebunk, Maine

Rachel Mann
Kennebunk, Maine

Dana Michaud
Kennebunk, Maine

Claudette Midgley
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: We need to double our efforts on recycling and concentrate on illuminating plastics from the environment

Doug Quist
Kennebunk, Maine

Carlena Smith
Kennebunk, Maine

Michael Thomas
Kennebunk, Maine

Jean Thompson
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: It upsets me to think I might not be able to recycle things the way I do now. It seems like a big step backwards. Why have we been sending our recyclables half-way around the globe anyway? Can't we handle these materials here?

And, yes, why are manufacturers packaging things in the wasteful ways they do? We need to change all this to reverse the damage we are doing now.

Karen Tolstrup
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: I want to recycle every scrap of paper, plastic and cardboard. I do my best, but more must be done. This is a good place to start kt

Janice Vance
Kennebunk, Maine

Kris White
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: So needed!

Danika Whitehouse
Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: If we have learned anything from this recent crisis, it is that our failure to prepare has consequences. We have already missed that opportunity and now it is about mitigation and CHANGE. Put the onus on the companies to be better global citizens!

Julie Allen
Kennebunkport, Maine

Jennifer Armstrong
Kennebunkport, Maine

Gregory Burke
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: We do need to save our planet.

Jane Card
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Responsible recycling is not a luxury. It is a necessity for the health of our planet, ourselves, our children and our children's children. It can only be achieved when everyone is involved. It's time for the corporate community to step up and embrace this imperative in Maine and beyond.

Herb Cohen
Kennebunkport, Maine

Alyson Daniels
Kennebunkport, Maine

Denise DesChenes
Kennebunkport, Maine

Pat Dufosse
Kennebunkport, Maine

Jon Dykstra
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Reduce, reuse and recycle! Industry must be convinced to join and enable these efforts. Financial incentives / penalties is the only way.

Harvey Flashen
Kennebunkport, Maine

Mary Giknis
Kennebunkport, Maine

Ashley Gouzie
Kennebunkport, Maine

Susan Graham
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Thank you for initiating this legislation

Bethe Hagens
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: We are in a perfect position as a state to do this now, to make our state a model in immigration policy implementation, social justice, sustainable futures, employment in meaningful work, and investment here in our (hopefully) increasingly green and 'live and let live' heritage.

Anneliese Hall
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: If nothing is done by the manufacturer, I will unpack my plastic wrapped items at the store and leave the packaging for the store to dispense with it.

Edward Hall
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Count me in.

Waylon Holbrook
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Time to evolve

Martha Huestis
Kennebunkport, Maine

David James
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Strongly support!

Jenne James
Kennebunkport, Maine

Lisanne James
Kennebunkport, Maine

Liz Johnson
Kennebunkport, Maine

Audrey Lakin
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Urging our elected representatives to take action!

Paul Lakin
Kennebunkport, Maine

Larry Landau
Kennebunkport, Maine

Lisa Lewis
Kennebunkport, Maine

Betsy Longstreth
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: It is imperative that Maine continue to recycle. Please pass an 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law. Betsy Longstreth

George Longstreth
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Pass the extended producer responsibility for packaging law. It is absolutely necessary to maintain the viability of the environment

Carole Madden
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: Recycling is a MUST!! Don't ignore it, please!!!!

David Manyan
Kennebunkport, Maine

Thomas McClain
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: With oil prices so low, plastic producers have every incentive to produce more and more. Having them share the cost of disposal is an incentive to be more creative and responsible for our planet.

Melissa McDougald
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: We are the Hope !

Robert Mills
Kennebunkport, Maine

Bedelia Moran
Kennebunkport, Maine

Christopher Moulton
Kennebunkport, Maine

Judith Phillips
Kennebunkport, Maine

Nicholas Phillips
Kennebunkport, Maine

Patricia Prevet
Kennebunkport, Maine

Jennifer Raymond
Kennebunkport, Maine

Barbara Ripton
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: We need to keep recycling. We live next to the ocean and many of us work in ocean related endeavors-fishing, etc. makes no sense to discontinue and we must guarantee that are recyclables are actually being recycled.

Gail Roller
Kennebunkport, Maine

Nick Sampson
Kennebunkport, Maine

Barrie Schultheis
Kennebunkport, Maine

Sarah Senning
Kennebunkport, Maine

Carolyn Sherman
Kennebunkport, Maine

Beverley Soule
Kennebunkport, Maine

Keith Truesdale
Kennebunkport, Maine
Comment: We must not abandon recycling We must not stop curbside recycling We must be good stewards of this planet We must all work together

Rick Wakeland
Kennebunkport, Maine

Cameron Wilson
Kennebunkport, Maine

Jake Cockrell
Kents Hill, Maine

Allyn Bain
Kingfield, Maine

Joanna Buffum
Kingfield, Maine
Comment: I hate not being able to recycle glass!

Jane Deely
Kingfield, Maine

Axelle Dervisevic
Kingfield, Maine

Ashley Hopwood Farrar
Kingfield, Maine

Sandra Jamison
Kingfield, Maine

Polly Macmichael
Kingfield, Maine

Joan Meldrum
Kingfield, Maine

Thomas Sinitski
Kingfield, Maine

Todd Towle
Kingfield, Maine

Marjorie Trenholm
Kingfield, Maine

Annie Twitchell
Kingfield, Maine

Gabrielle Bertrand
Kittery, Maine
Comment: This proposed idea enables all of us to finally end our unwilling participation in this extremely faulty, yet politically endorsed, system. In a world that is overwhelmed with problems, THIS is something we can change today. For our kids, for our future, and for the home we all call Earth.

Jen Cleary
Kittery, Maine
Comment: I am a voter and live in Kittery. I am very concerned with the current administration and look to my state to make the appropriate changes to keep our oceans and land sustainable and free from plastics.

Celeste Coughlin
Kittery, Maine

Arilda Densch
Kittery, Maine
Comment: Long overdue, and it will make things much easier & less costly for consumers, companies and the environment once it's organized and in place. Thank you for asking me to sign!

Jennifer Freeman
Kittery, Maine

Emily Hennessy
Kittery, Maine

John Higgins
Kittery, Maine

Rebecca Hoffman
Kittery, Maine

Gary Mitchell
Kittery, Maine

Betty Olivolo
Kittery, Maine

Katherine Peternell
Kittery, Maine

Cheria Rollins
Kittery, Maine

Jennifer Seavey
Kittery, Maine

John Seedner
Kittery, Maine

John Werner
Kittery, Maine
Comment: THE WORLD IS BEING COVERED BY PLASTICS - THE FOSSIL FUEL CORPORATIONS ARE WORKING ON SIGNIFICANTLY GROWING THE USE OF PLASTICS ACROSS THE WORLD BY CONTINUING TO DRILL, FRACK AN PUMP METHANE GAS.

Alice White
Kittery, Maine
Comment: We are 185 residents aged 65-90 who live in Kittery Maine with NO PLACE TO RECYCLE. HELP!!!!!!

Galen Beale
Kittery Point, Maine

Peter Motson
Kittery Point, Maine

Melissa Paly
Kittery Point, Maine

Jerry Robock
Kittery Point, Maine
Comment: We all need to learn to buy products with less packaging but the manufacturers and retailers need to take back this packaging and reuse or recycle it responsibily.

Jonah Seedner
Kittery Point, Maine
Comment: I would love to see a bill passed requiring business to have recycling bins. It amazes me how many businesses have trash bins but no where to properly dispose of bottles ect.

Judy Spiller
Kittery Point, Maine

Patricia Tobey
Kittery Point, Maine

Margie Shannon
Knox, Maine
Comment: We reduce, compost, sort and recycle all we can,

and have done so forever! This Recycling Reform sounds like an excellent project. Our house has a Heat Recovery Ventilation system that came from the Netherlands. The information booklet tells one to contact the 'supplier' about what to do to be sure it is recycled at the end of its useful life.

D. Gordon Mott
Lakeville, Maine
Comment: A critically important effort!

Cynthia Fontneau
Lebanon, Maine

Steve Fontneau
Lebanon, Maine

Gina Gutman
Lebanon, Maine
Comment: Very important for us to do.

Regina Lang
Lebanon, Maine

Eileen Coyne
Leeds, Maine
Comment: I'd love to see manufacturers held responsible for the trash/plastic they generate. The styrofoam trays in the supermarket are appalling now that everyone knows they are not recyclable. E.C.

Richard Fochtmann
Leeds, Maine
Comment: It's time to go back to paper, putting Maine's loggers to work, while encouraging the use of shopper's own reusable bags.

Anne Sites
Leeds, Maine

Paul Baribault
Lewiston, Maine

Ronald Barry
Lewiston, Maine

Peggy Beck
Lewiston, Maine

Gregory D'Augustine
Lewiston, Maine
Comment: Unless someone comes up with a better method of reducing plastic packaging, and encouraging recycling of what's left, this concept seems sensible.

Eve Duplissis
Lewiston, Maine

James Handy
Lewiston, Maine

Carly Harris
Lewiston, Maine

Kevin McGrory
Lewiston, Maine

Helen Price-Wharff
Lewiston, Maine

John Smedley
Lewiston, Maine

Anne Trapp
Lewiston, Maine

Ted Walworth
Lewiston, Maine

Hermione Zhou
Lewiston, Maine

Elise Brown
Liberty, Maine

Bob Kohl
Liberty, Maine

Gil Harris
Limerick, Maine
Comment: As a resident and local office holder, I strongly support recycling. I agree that packaging is one of the primary sources of waste. Industry needs to be accountable and supportive of efforts to reduce waste that is filling our landfills and polluting our environment.

Irena Wroten
Limerick, Maine
Comment: Please let this pass. Having more options to recycle, more accepted and hopefully having others entirely rethink how they package our food would be amazing! Small changes caj greatly impact us over time.

Wanda Whitten
Limington, Maine

Patricia Burke
Lincoln, Maine

Josh Gerritsen
Lincolnville, Maine

Jane Hardy
Lincolnville, Maine

David McLean
Lincolnville, Maine

Rachel Olsen
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: This is a problem that can be solved! Organizations like Upstream Solutions (https://www.upstreamsolutions.org/) are helping towns and businesses find innovative and cost-effective solutions to disposables elsewhere and Maine could be at the forefront of much-needed reform. Please look outside the box and let's find alternatives that benefit all of us.

Christopher Osgood
Lincolnville, Maine

Julia Raite
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: I'm a dedicated recycler and I think businesses and legislators in Maine need to join in and do their part too.

antje roitzsch
Lincolnville, Maine

Diana Sanderson
Lincolnville, Maine

Robert Sewall
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: We need recycling!

Carole Snyder
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: I am in favor of improving our recycling process .

Lynn Tauss
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: It is imperative to recycle all metals and papers. There needs to be a better system set up for recycling plastics where it is cost-effective and easy to do. Triple washing plastic jars and shipping them miles and miles away and then not having them actually turned into anything else it's pointless.

Jana Timchak
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: I felt sick to my stomach, bagging up all my recycling and then through if into the garbage dumpster. We should have our own recycling facilities in the US not in China- and own and take care of our own stuff! Find a way to take care of our own recycling so that it's good for humanity and our Earth and our children.

Brian Veditz
Lincolnville, Maine
Comment: Maine (and the nation) needs more environmentally friendly product packaging and recycling efforts.

Doreen Mann
Lisbon, Maine

Natalie Thomsen
Lisbon, Maine

Kyle McCaskill
Lisbon Falls, Maine

Craig Bowley
Litchfield, Maine

Rick Diamond
Litchfield, Maine
Comment: This is important!

Peggy Mascher
Litchfield, Maine
Comment: Absolutely!

Robin Stevens
Litchfield, Maine

Jeff Titon
Little Deer Isle, Maine
Comment: Recycling, especially of plastic, is critical for the future of the environment that sustains us. If we can pressure manufacturers to reduce plastic in their packaging that will go a long way toward making a difference. I believe this is one of the most important things we can do for a sensible future.

Doug Wilson
Little Deer Isle, Maine

Sharri Venno
Littleton, Maine
Comment: Engaging manufacturers in the process of managing the materials generated from their products and packaging is long overdue and a necessary part of developing acradle to grave (or cradle if we are serious about recycling) management system.

Jonnie Maloney
Livermore, Maine
Comment: Recycling is very important to me, and lots of other folks, as well as the planet! Please keep recycling alive and well, and accessible to all!

Carol Corkran
Livermore Falls, Maine
Comment: We as consumers and taxpayers can only do so much. Producers need this incentive to value the full cycle of their products.

Elizabeth Como
Lovell, Maine

Eric Gulbrandsen
Lovell, Maine
Comment: Time to bring new industry and jobs to Maine. Unfortunately we are behind the curve compared to some

countries. We need to change our mentality and increase innovation. Dirigo, lead not follow.

Phoebe Monteith
Lovell, Maine

Renee Gray
Lubec, Maine

Kara McCrimmon
Lubec, Maine
Comment: We need packaging that can be readily recycled, and we need markets for those recyclable materials close to home. We also need to change our practices so that we use less packaging to begin with. I've stopped buying yogurt because I can't recycle number 5 plastic, and that hurts regional dairy farmers, as an example. We can do better.

Gabriela Montoya-Eyerman
Lubec, Maine

Judee Reel
Lubec, Maine
Comment: There are lots of alternatives to oil-based plastic and we need to require them for everything immediately. If we are going to pay extra for garbage and/or recycling, not to mention the destruction of our planet and our health, why not pay extra for bio-degradeable packaging--or truly recyclable containers, like glass? I am not too young to remember before all this plastic took over our world. We got along without it just fine.

Denise Rule
Lubec, Maine
Comment: We are a tiny town and have been supporting a recycling program since 1990 - we are proud of our efforts, but each year it becomes a bit more difficult to justify the cost. This bill would provide a welcome financial relief and stimulate an even better local program.

George Davenport
Lyman, Maine
Comment: I've recycled wherever I've lived for the last 20+ years. It's a shame that corporate greed is defeating this effort. I would propose shifting the burden on corporate America by penalizing the shareholders of corporations that that do not use recyclable packaging.

Jeffrey Floyd
Lyman, Maine

Amanda Hanscom
Machias, Maine

Terry Henderson
Machias, Maine
Comment: we shouldn't be dependent on other countries to recycle the waste from products Americans buy. We should develop recycling plants throughout the country. I feel terrible throwing glass, cardboard & plastic back in the landfills. Perhaps if we assumed responsibility for our own trash we could stop blaming other countries, like China, who won't accept our dirty recyclables that Americans can't even sort properly. Education & new facilities, markets & rewards can turn this around into good stewardship, not too mention the relief on an all stressed at risk eco system.

Nancy Lewis
Machias, Maine

Tara Librizzi
Machias, Maine

Tessa Mellas
Machiasport, Maine

Billie Rose Newby
Machiasport, Maine

Anne Pennell
Machiasport, Maine
Comment: We need better Recycling badly in Maine

Greg Dustin
Madison, Maine

Cliftine Fortin
Madison, Maine

Doe Fourcaudot
Madison, Maine

Anna Plog
Madrid Twp, Maine

Caden Brown
Manchester, Maine

Daisy Dore
Manchester, Maine

April Gay
Manchester, Maine
Comment: This is EXACTLY the kind of change we need to see. Consummables should be designed to be REUSED and REPURPOSED, not disposable. The materials that go into manufacturing products consumed in our state and country should be organic based and biodegradable. Corporations should be held accountable for the effect of their manufacturing on the environment. The profit won't matter if we don't have clean air to breath and clean water to drink!

William Hawksley
Manchester, Maine
Comment: I want the opportunity to vote against the CMP

corridor. Also I suggest the NRCM publish an answer to the CMP lies. Their add shows black smoke coming from a tall chimney. The Mass. electricity never touches Maine. Question: How much money does CMP get each year for allowing electricity to pass through CMP's corridor?

Garry Hinkley
Manchester, Maine

Sara Kingdon
Manchester, Maine

Rondi Nelson
Manchester, Maine

Joshua Panek
Manchester, Maine

Elizabeth Pollock
Manchester, Maine

Jean-Luc Theriault
Manchester, Maine

Patricia Lynn Eldershaw
Mapleton, Maine
Comment: Aroostook County has a poor track record with recycling and recently has cut back on accepting for recycling glass and several commonly used plastic items. Less that 10% of plastics are recycled and most end up in landfills, are incinerated or discarded. More than 1/2 of these plastics are single use items. I have written to local retailers to request stopping single use plastic shopping bags but have been declined despite numerous studies demonstrating they can spread the virus and live on surfaces up to 3 days. Plastics are enormous environmental and wildlife threat. The European union has voted to ban single use plastic items and put in place 'polluter pays' measures to pressure manufactures to develop alternate or zero packaging. There are sustainable alternatives. We just need to have the will to use them.

Mark Brown
Marshfield, Maine

Harlan Gardner
Marshfield, Maine
Comment: There's way too much plastic everywhere. You can't buy groceries without bringing home gobs of plastic.

Joanne Emery
Medway, Maine

John Hafford
Medway, Maine
Comment: We need to wake up to the impact of all this stuff on our planet. We need sensible policy on all kinds of fronts - let's get to work!

Christiaan Beeuwkes
Mercer, Maine
Comment: Just as with the very successful bottle deposit here in Maine that helps to keep our environment free if this litter, it seems logical that every product should have its recycling cost built into its price...

Daria Johnson
Mexico, Maine

Alexandra Alsop
Milbridge, Maine

Anne Arnold
Milbridge, Maine

Suzanne Brown
Milbridge, Maine

Joanne Halpin
Milbridge, Maine

Eila Lang
Milbridge, Maine

Erin Sio
Milbridge, Maine

Gail Tooker
Milbridge, Maine
Comment: I have been recycling for over 40 years so it broke my heart when my town (Milbridge) recently stopped it's recycling program (because of the cost,they said). I am now considering paying to have our recyclables sent to the Coastal Resources of Maine facility in Hampden, but I am wondering about them. Do you recommend them? Are they 'legit'? My husband thinks they could be a scam. I fully support your efforts to get manufacturers to pay for at least some of the costs associated with dealing with their packaging.

Danielle Woerner
Milbridge, Maine
Comment: I'm very much interested in this issue. As a reporter, I covered it in some depth in our local newspaper when the western Washington County ME programs ended. As a human, I find it frustrating and sad to be throwing everything but corrugated cardboard into the trash, after we've all been trained for decades to handle recyclable household waste in more responsible ways.

Pamela Bell
Milford, Maine
Comment: Keep recycling working.

Anthony Guay
Milford, Maine
Comment: I support legislative reform for a strong, cost-

effective recycling program for Maine by adopting a solution that is used around the world to make corporations share in the cost of delivering recycling programs.

Constance McManus
Millinocket, Maine

Joyce Smith
Millinocket, Maine

Paula Copeland
Milo, Maine

Nancy Harrigan
Milo, Maine

Lisa Graves
Minot, Maine

Nancy Donker
Monmouth, Maine

leonardo gonell
Monmouth, Maine

Julie Retelle
Monmouth, Maine

Rebecca Stanley
Monmouth, Maine

Breanna Milliken
Monroe, Maine

Joan Bromage
Mount Desert, Maine
Comment: We were so happy when we could recycle all paper/cardboard/most plastics/glass etc. Now it is much harder to figure what is recyclable, and much less plastic and various papers can be saved. It breaks my heart to have to throw things in the trash! And to buy items I need which have too much packaging in the first place!

Philip Lichtenstein
Mount Desert, Maine

Carl Little
Mount Desert, Maine

Alexandra Dube
Mount Vernon, Maine

Melissa Romac
Mount Vernon, Maine
Comment: Please support recycling reform for Maine now! In the last year, recycling in my community has been cut back and changed considerably. I now have to throw some items in the trash that formerly were recycled and I hate to do that!

Elizabeth Trehu
Mount Vernon, Maine
Comment: Our town can no longer recycle glass because there is nowhere to send it!

Sandra Wright
Mount Vernon, Maine

Deborah Bastian
New Gloucester, Maine

Anthony Castro
New Gloucester, Maine

Denise D'Amboise
New Gloucester, Maine

Tom Halstead
New Gloucester, Maine

Christine Huot
New Gloucester, Maine

Peter Jederlin
New Gloucester, Maine
Comment: Lax laws and enforcement of the ones that do exist are the reason for the catastrophic contamination of our state and country, other places and in particular the oceans of the world and this needs to be corrected as it is as important as climate change

Mary Beth Johnson
New Gloucester, Maine
Comment: Thank you for all of your efforts.

Lenore Sivulich
New Gloucester, Maine

Douglas Smith
New Gloucester, Maine

Kathryn Armstrong
New Harbor, Maine

David Bilski
New Harbor, Maine

Michelle Henkin
New Harbor, Maine

Jonathan LeVeen
New Harbor, Maine
Comment: Currently in my town, Bristol, I can only recycle #2 plastic. But most of the containers I buy are #5. It's a shame. And, now, many products that used to come in glass, now come in plastic containers -- yes -- #5 plastic. I do plan on contacting the manufacturers -- and thank you for undertaking this.

Jill Linzee
New Harbor, Maine
Comment: This is critically important to save our planet!

Linda Shaffer
New Harbor, Maine
Comment: Please help Maine communities address the waste management mess that we're all in. The way to deal with the mess is to make companies who create wasteful and non-recyclable/reusable packaging and products find other solutions for their products. Thank you.

Anne Winchester
New Harbor, Maine
Comment: Please help us with the growing burden on our landfills. The amount of plastics going into our landfills is upsetting and harmful, never mind expensive. Corporations need to be held responsible for the packaging they produce. Please require that they pitch in to reduce this growing financial and environmental burden through 1) environmentally responsible packaging and 2) efficient and effective recycling programs. Thank you for understanding the importance of this matter.

John Winchester
New Harbor, Maine

Karen Bessey Pease
New Portland, Maine

Kim Craig
New Portland, Maine

Stephen Gorr
New Portland, Maine

Staci Thompson
New Portland, Maine

Eileen Almy
New Sharon, Maine

Debra Kinney-Dearden
New Sharon, Maine

Victoria Sears-Gordon
New Sharon, Maine

Jean Stewart
New Sharon, Maine

Kate Weatherby
New Sharon, Maine

Darryl Wood
New Sharon, Maine

Nancy Adams
Newcastle, Maine

Chelsea Bowers
Newcastle, Maine

Tatiana Brailovskaya
Newcastle, Maine
Comment: Maine's reputation as a state that values its environment has long been a hallmark of our identity and is a model for others. Given the increasingly critical environmental issues facing our society today, implementing effective and responsible policy for packaging and recycling in our state must become a key priority for all of us. We need meaningful action now. There is no reason to delay.

Hannah McGhee
Newcastle, Maine

David Miller
Newcastle, Maine

Bill Mook
Newcastle, Maine

Karen Mook
Newcastle, Maine
Comment: Establishing trusted recycling in Maine and the US is essential!

Robert Nelson
Newcastle, Maine
Comment: This is long overdue. Consumers are making great efforts to reduce plastic and recycle when we can. We need the producers of packaging to step up and take responsibility for creating excess packaging.

Julia O'Brien-Merrill
Newcastle, Maine

Jeanne Thompson
Newcastle, Maine
Comment: The health of our state, country and world depends on our pro- recycling actions. Please act!!!

Mariellen Whelan
Newcastle, Maine

Alivia Moore
Newport, Maine

Nancy Babcock
Newry, Maine

Iris Roberts
Newry, Maine
Comment: Yes, first, pressure on manufacturers of food and care products to only send bio-degradable packaging to Maine.

Then, we need innovative ways to reuse the products we already have in the State encase them in insulation or concrete in some ways that would render them inert (if that's possiblemicro plastic particles rained down onto Colorado, recently). Maine certainly does not want more plastics in the oceans to harm our seafood, we already have too much. This evidence is not hard to find. Maine should immediately become a leader in this effort!!!

Suzanne Hedrick
Nobleboro, Maine
Comment: I have been recycling and composting for years. I intend to keep doing so

Carol Knapp
Nobleboro, Maine
Comment: Residents of Maine have been learning what to recycle and have been participating in increasing numbers. It has become extremely frustrating to realize that many of the items we were recycling are no longer accepted by the transfer station and are instead going to the landfill! Even when we are trying to avoid purchasing items in non-recyclable packaging, it seems like an insurmountable task. It is important that the State reform recycling.

Judy Linker
Nobleboro, Maine
Comment: About time!

Dewey Meteer
Nobleboro, Maine
Comment: We definitely need recycling reform, especially reducing plastics.

Lynn Plumb
Nobleboro, Maine

Matthew Silverman
Nobleboro, Maine

JB Smith
Nobleboro, Maine
Comment: It's time that both manufacturing and retail share the burden of waste disposal and recycling

Helen Balgooyen
Norridgewock, Maine
Comment: I think the Zero Sort recycling is a poor idea. I see so much wish-cycling that contaminates the whole lot. Lets go back to separate bins for paper, glass, cans, and plastics. I think whole batches might be less likely to end up in the landfill.

Helen Balgooyen
Norridgewock, Maine

Marla Bottesch
Norridgewock, Maine
Comment: Incentivize and promote food-waste composting - make it easy and profitable, in some way, for people.

Matthew Crane
Norridgewock, Maine

Renee Emery
North Anson, Maine

Patricia Cluff
North Berwick, Maine

Benjamin Utter
North Berwick, Maine

Zeb Campbell
North Haven, Maine

Beth Lamont
North Haven, Maine
Comment: Being semi-bicoastal between Maine and California, I want our entire system to change so that we're not all unavoidably contributing to this overwhelming problem even when we try to do the right thing.

Moe Beaulieu
North Monmouth, Maine

David Libby
North Monmouth, Maine
Comment: Companies using plastic packaging should be stopped. Much of the so called recycling is just putting more plastic in dumps and water around the world. Air, water, soil, and food are all being poisoned by plastic.

Rosalind Waldron
North Vassalboro, Maine

Suzanne Aubrey
North Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: Please take action to get recycling in more towns. I realize this is easier said than done, but I know collectively your brilliant minds can come up with a solution... hopefully sooner rather than later. Thank you. Suzanne

Mandy Ball
North Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: We need to get the manufacturers on board, at the very least with truth in labeling, and better use of truly recyclable materials.

Chris Cabot
North Yarmouth, Maine

Kathleen Conrad
North Yarmouth, Maine

Comment: Far more responsibility for recyclable packaging should be on manufacturers!!!

Eliza Dorsey
North Yarmouth, Maine

Amy Eshoo
North Yarmouth, Maine

Sandra Falsey
North Yarmouth, Maine

Sarah Fitzpatrick
North Yarmouth, Maine

Stephen Fournier
North Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: It is time to make the producers of the products we use become more responsible in their packaging.. Europe is way ahead of us in what they can and do recycle. Our efforts to make a huge difference in the waste steam hinge on significantly better recyclable packaging. Help us help the planet, save resources and the environment. Thanks.

Polly Grindle
North Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: For years I have been a vigilant recycler, checking for the chasing arrows and numbers imprinted on plastic and washing it all very thoroughly. I have used cloth bags for years. I buy dairy products from a local dairy and return the glass bottles to them. I reduced my trash as much as possible and had a much larger volume of clean recyclables. Then I kept reading about how much stuff was not recycled, but instead was foisted on poor countries and ended up polluting their lands and the ocean. Styrofoam is something I try very hard to avoid and it's almost an impossibility to do so when purchasing meat. I am old enough to remember when waxed paper, butcher paper and paper meat trays were used instead of plastics. Our family of seven had far less trash in the 1950's than my family of three has today. I am so tired of all the plastic wrapping to fight my way through just to get to the product. I do not want all this plastic waste and I feel guilty about my contribution to it.

Martha Leggat
North Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: I encourage Maine to reform recycling in passing an extended producer responsibility for packaging law. Thanks for your considerations!

Alexander Rose
North Yarmouth, Maine

Michelle Wainer
North Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: Please support recycling reform in Maine as well as widen the span of acceptable recyclable items. We must also educate people on what is truly recyclable. Let's keep Maine and our planet clean or there will be no turning back. Thank you!

Maria Thompson
Northeast Harbor, Maine
Comment: I support this especially because it incentivizes Corporations to produce less waste and waste that can be recycled. Tax the corporations (federally not just state) and watch how fast they change!

Judy Berk
Northport, Maine
Comment: Great idea. Thank you

Shelley Fein
Northport, Maine

Steven Fein
Northport, Maine
Comment: Recycling starts with the product not the dump.

Karen Gleeson
Northport, Maine
Comment: I've been on the Recycling Committee for my township -- Northport -- and we managed to 'save' recycling in our town. But it is barely good enough, and we're having to pay out $$ to continue. Additionally, the carter quite reasonably lets us know that his diesel fuel is not doing the environment any favors getting our stuff down to the Portland area so as continue our recycling system. This calls into question whether this is really worth it. We need much better answers for our waste systems.

Angela Maniak
Northport, Maine

Paul Sheridan
Northport, Maine
Comment: Problem needs to be directed at the source--the manufacturers and packagers. Choose one or two obvious and blatant offenders, say the plastic 50ml 'nips' of liquor and impose a $5.00 (yes, five full dollars!) deposit on each of those bottles. That is just a start....

Jennifer Angelone
Norway, Maine

Eliza Beghe
Norway, Maine

Zachary Bell
Norway, Maine

Jess Cooper
Norway, Maine

Alice Goodwin
Norway, Maine

Becky Kaurup
Norway, Maine

Peter Kaurup
Norway, Maine
Comment: It is so frustrating that we are only recycling #2 out of all the plastics that we dispose of at our local Norway/Paris Transfer Station.

Sarah Kearsley
Norway, Maine

Nikki Millonzi
Norway, Maine
Comment: So important!

Ian Trundy
Norway, Maine

Pat Berger
Oakland, Maine

Robyn Deveney
Oakland, Maine
Comment: Obviously, something needs to change. Australia is one country leading the way in innovative solutions: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/12/world/australia/recycling-plastic-trash.html

Frank Engert
Oakland, Maine

Lauren Veneel
Oakland, Maine

Molly Woodward
Oakland, Maine

Kristin Cleary
Ogunquit, Maine

John Fusco
Ogunquit, Maine
Comment: As manager of the transfer station in Ogunquit I am at the bottom of the waste stream and I know how disturbed this community is by the changes in the waste industry. The citizens and businesses of this town have always done their part to recycle and it seems unfair that the increased costs are bottom weighted to the towns. It seems only fair that those who create the unavoidable packaging/waste should pay a portion of the cost to dispose of it.

Robin Millward
Ogunquit, Maine
Comment: In the town where I live, paper is no longer recycled and only plastics marked 1 or 2 which have a screwtop or are a jug are accepted. I specifically chose my calcium pills because the packaging seemed to be compliant but the empty bottle was rejected because it was green translucent plastic even though it was marked 2 and had a screw top. It's really frustrating to be contributing to the land fill against my better judgement!

Theresa Neill
Ogunquit, Maine

Jake Roche
Ogunquit, Maine
Comment: Sad that we can no longer recycle plastic #5 anymore, or paper, in Ogunquit. As a state, we should be getting better at recycling, not going backwards.

Vanessa Berry
Old Orchard Beach, Maine
Comment: Producers should share responsibility for funding the end-of-life of packaging they bring into the Maine market. Please support legislation that reduces the strain on Maine's municipalities to fund the disposal of packaging and promotes better use of the current recycling systems in place to meet its recycling goals. Maine has the opportunity to show its strength and lead the way for the rest of the country as we encourage the use of better alternatives and prevent our children from dealing with more landfills.

Andrea Farrow
Old Orchard Beach, Maine
Comment: To recycle plastic bags is so important but most places do not offer the option.

Joseph Heath
Old Orchard Beach, Maine
Comment: Hey! Fix it! Thanks! Is there an option to make the people that create the garbage pay for this? Lets do that. Hs and ks

Lynda Hinds
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Nicole Nelson
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Dave Shirley
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Tami Connolly
Old Town, Maine

Brendan Fahey
Old Town, Maine
Comment: I agree with this effort. We are encouraged to recycle, but many products we buy are packaged in plastics, etc that are not recyclable. This is wrong and the

manufacturer should be obligated to use packaging product that can be recycled. Manufacturers have misled consumers for long time with recycle symbols and small statements on their packaging saying the packaging was made with 10% recycled materials (only 10%), but the packaging material itself can not be recycled. I know most consumers are unaware that they are buying products with packaging that can not be recycled. We need to change that mindset. More importantly, we need to force the manufacturer to use packaging that will be 100% recyclable. Thank you for your time.

Jeannine Hashey
Old Town, Maine

Mac Heins
Old Town, Maine

Dianne Kopec
Old Town, Maine
Comment: If producers are responsible for the full life cycle of their packaging, they will develop non-toxic, sustainable packaging. Earth deserves nothing less.

Josie Miller
Old Town, Maine

Milton Mota
Old Town, Maine

Paula K Pietrowski
Old Town, Maine

Bryan Wells
Old Town, Maine
Comment: Yes, I support reforming recycling in Maine and urge lawmakers to pass the extended producer responsibility for packing law.

Kelley Ellsworth
Orland, Maine

Debra Godwin
Orland, Maine
Comment: Come on Maine!! Recycling was mandatory in Smethport PA when I lived there 30 years ago!! A very small town that was way ahead of the curve on recycling and environmental issues.

Christine West
Orland, Maine
Comment: The town of Orland does not recycle at the transfer station. It did when it first opened and then slowly took it away without notifying the town.

Samuel West
Orland, Maine

Comment: Why continue to use plastics and other wasteful materials while there are numerous options becoming available for biodegradable packaging? These corporations need to know if they continue to increase our noncompostable detritus that there will be financial consequences that rest solely on the ones whom are choosing to use a cheap pollutant as opposed to an earth-friendly alternative. Then maybe it wont be 'cheaper' to kill our ecosystems.

Arnav Acharya
Orono, Maine

john banks
orono, Maine

Emmanuel Boss
Orono, Maine

Kathryn Bourgoin
Orono, Maine

Nehemiah Brown
Orono, Maine

Noa Buzby
Orono, Maine
Comment: This recycling reform is necessary because it would allow municipalities to save money, and have the big companies take responsibility for their resources!

Cami Carter
Orono, Maine

Joanna Crouse
Orono, Maine

Erik Dasilva
Orono, Maine

Ronald Davis
Orono, Maine
Comment: Packaging requirements to reduce non-recyclable and difficult-to-recycle materials is long overdue. Reduction of unnecessary packaging is long overdue. R.B. Davis

Shirley Davis
Orono, Maine
Comment: Our recycling needs reform.

Irja Frank
Orono, Maine

Raven Goodell
Orono, Maine

Julie Gosse
Orono, Maine

John Grillo
Orono, Maine
Comment: To the discerning mind with insight, separate the 'wheat from the chaff'!

Frances Haines
Orono, Maine

Nancy Hall
Orono, Maine
Comment: I fully agree that producers must take much greater responsibility for the types of materials their products are packaged in, with the goal being to reduce drastically the amount of material waste that cannot be recycled effectively by consumers.

Ava Heal
Orono, Maine

Paloma Henriques
Orono, Maine

Md Tanzid Hossain
Orono, Maine

Leslie Hudson
Orono, Maine

Carmen Irujo
Orono, Maine

Emily Jackson Sanborn
Orono, Maine

Megan Keast
Orono, Maine

Jason Langley
Orono, Maine
Comment: Recycling in Maine is basically a joke. If we want to stop rapidly losing our landfill space, then recycling must be reformed to actually work. Putting more responsibility on plastic and packaging producers would be a great start.

Deborah Larsen-Soderberg
Orono, Maine

Tom Lawrence
Orono, Maine

Joyce Longcore
Orono, Maine

Emma Macaillen
Orono, Maine
Comment: It is critical to continue to pursue the highest possible standards re minimizing waste and protecting our environment. Please utilize every measure possible including rigid recycling protocols and changing waste management to such European programs as Trash to Fuel.

Jean MacRae
Orono, Maine
Comment: EPR will help Maine reach our goal of 50% diversion from landfill and incineration, reduce the burden on municipalities and encourage companies to use recyclable materials in packaging.

Rihab Masmoudi
Orono, Maine

Sarah McMahon
Orono, Maine
Comment: save the earth plz :)

Kathy Moore
Orono, Maine

Anya Parker
Orono, Maine

Gavin Pelkey
Orono, Maine

Grace Perron
Orono, Maine

Susan Pinette
Orono, Maine

Cheryl Robertson
Orono, Maine
Comment: Also, our Orono MSW is being landfilled due to Coastal RM not fulfilling their obligations or promises to be online more than a year ago. How can a state owned landfill also have the right to issue its own permits?

Ann Ross
Orono, Maine

John Tjepkema
Orono, Maine

Orion-Bay Tucker
Orono, Maine

Reilly Ward
Orono, Maine

Timothy Waring
Orono, Maine
Comment: Dear Legislature, The issue of how we handle our waste, like how we treat the poor, is a measure of our principles, our values. Our current system encourages the production of large amounts of waste, but presumes that individuals and towns and states must bear the cost of that

waste. This is unbalanced, because the waste need not be produced in the first place. This bill will bring in the companies that manufacture disposable packaging and make it easier for us, as individuals to act ethically in terms of our own waste. Please support recycling reform. Tim Waring, Orono, ME

Scott Wilkerson
Orono, Maine

Ben Woodworth
Orono, Maine

Michaela Wright
Orono, Maine

Elizabeth Alexander
Orrington, Maine
Comment: I think that the full options for recycling need to be explained to the townspeople so that everyone can participate. The bottle redemption centers work well but I've noticed there are fewer of them. There needs to be more recycling, not less..

Amos Diehl
Orrington, Maine

judy holder
Orrington, Maine

Holly Hunter
Orrington, Maine

Janice Janostak
Orrington, Maine

Patricia Judd
Orrington, Maine
Comment: We definitely need to recycle here in Maine and elsewhere. Please do all that you can to make this come true. Sincerely, Patricia Judd, Orrington, Maine

Barbara Kershner
Orrington, Maine
Comment: it is weird how we spent so much money on blue recycling bins and setting up separate picks up for recycling and everyone was on board, and excited about being more environmentally aware; to all of a sudden, no more recycling! How sad it was to watch both bins getting dumped into 1 truck after families took the time to teach their kids the importance of recycling and the toll it is taking on our planet... Then all of the sudden they are explaining it costs too much to recycle, ie saving your planet is not financially feasible anymore... What happen to leaving our planet a better place for our children? Very discouraging that we are finding out it cost more to recycle so the towns stop doing it.

Sara Ostrander
Orrington, Maine

Donne Sinderson
Orrington, Maine

Erin Smile
Orrington, Maine
Comment: PLEASE! We need a way to responsibly get rid of our plastics and other recyclables.

Erin Vinson
Orrington, Maine
Comment: Orrington used to have a curbside pickup for recycling, but now just send both recycling and trash to Orrington's Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (http://www.percwte.com/). While I do like the idea of trash being transformed into energy - I don't feel that burning plastic is an appropriate way to do so. I would LOVE to see a recycling program return to Orrington. We recently moved to Orrington and want to see this town be a leader in a cleaner and healthier Maine!

Jeanne Brooks
Orrs Island, Maine

Leslie Zales
Orrs Island, Maine

Shawn Kane
Otisfield, Maine
Comment: I come from a product design background. We always designed for the wishes of the end user/customer. WE the customers need to demand that the producers of all plastics packaging be required to take back the packaging they manufacture. Manufacturers need to be responsible for it. Once that happens, designs will be quickly developed for products that can be reused or made to be easily up cycled/recycled. There is no waste in Nature- Everything is part of the system, save for what we humans are now creating! It is a design problem.

Maureen Mooney-Howard
Otisfield, Maine

Kathy Bourque Parker
Owls Head, Maine

Keller Lessard
Owls Head, Maine

Catherine Syrett
Owls Head, Maine
Comment: Unfortunately too many companies seem to ignore the consequences of their choice of packaging and taxpayers and the environment pay the price.

Diana Arcadipone
Oxford, Maine

Lee Dassler
Oxford, Maine

Frank Hodson
Oxford, Maine

Jesse Wall
Oxford, Maine
Comment: We should also psuh for legislation that requires all plastic containers in the US to be standard shape and size etc so they can be reused by any number of companies. No more single use specialty shapes!

Geralynne Winget
Parsonsfield, Maine
Comment: Take a lesson from European countries like Germany .... make companies stop already with all the unnecessary packaging, ban styrofoam, use hemp products

Paula Chessin
Peaks Island, Maine

Nina Shorey
Peaks Island, Maine

Robert Villforth
Peaks Island, Maine

Claudine Weatherford
Peaks Island, Maine

Martha Floyd
Pembroke, Maine

Robin Hadlock Seeley
Pembroke, Maine

Tom Adamo
Penobscot, Maine
Comment: A decrease in packaging materials is also essential. This is to say that an item wrapped in plastic inside a plastic container and then placed in a box is a bit too much packaging material.

Dotty Caldwell
Penobscot, Maine

Zachary Holderby
Penobscot, Maine
Comment: We had zero sort recycling and it was great for almost a year. It went a way, which is not. Now all the recycling gets burned. Why are we digging up and cutting things down to make all these disposable products when it can all be made from recycled garbage?

Meaghan McMonagle
Penobscot, Maine
Comment: All products should be compostable or recyclable. Why are we digging up and chopping down our natural areas and transporting materials all over the globe when we could just locally melt them down and reuse them? Makes no sense. Recycling needs to get better, and more products need to be made from recycled materials.

David Vandiver
Penobscot, Maine
Comment: I would love to support legislation that promoted transparency regarding what becomes of my recycled material and secured easy access to that info.

Laurie Warren
Penobscot, Maine
Comment: YES! The world does such a terrible job of addressing this vital issue.

Les Gross
Perry, Maine

Debbie McCarthy
Phillips, Maine

Alan Morse
Phillips, Maine

Larry Pinkham
Phillips, Maine

Phoebe Adams
Phippsburg, Maine

Dot Kelly
Phippsburg, Maine
Comment: Thanks for highlighting the need to make the recycling system fit our needs in Maine.

Michael Levy
Phippsburg, Maine

Jean Perkins
Phippsburg, Maine

STEPHANIE PRUZANSKY
Phippsburg, Maine

Caroline Skroski
Phippsburg, Maine

Trudy Ferland
Pittsfield, Maine

Barbara McPherson
Pittsfield, Maine

Vaughan Woodruff
Pittsfield, Maine

Erin Macro
Pittston, Maine

Lisa Paige
Pittston, Maine

Ann Pistell
Pittston, Maine
Comment: Now is the time. It makes environmental and economic sense. All recycling programs in the towns YOU were elected to represent will be strengthened, which will strengthen your communities as well. Bring home the bacon! Ann Pistell is

Jim Rodrigue
Pittston, Maine

Douglas Webb
Pittston, Maine

Dawn Dyer
Poland, Maine

Fergus Lea
Poland, Maine
Comment: EPR will make manufacturers think about their packaging and encourage them to make it more environmentally friendly.

Tamara Leavitt
Poland, Maine

Tim Nadeau
Poland, Maine
Comment: Protext our environment and promote recycling.

Deborah Perkins
Poland, Maine

Raymond Potter
Poland, Maine

Catherine Tetenman
Poland, Maine
Comment: It is so discouraging to have no consistency in packaging to be recycled and to have so many companies that don't do it. I realize it's an added expense but there has to be enough companies that can afford it. Also, it seems that companies don't make changes unless forced to. Maybe there's an incremental way to make companies change their practices so that recycling companies can stay in business and the public can continue to recycle.

Stan Tetenman
Poland, Maine

Mark Ustach
Poland, Maine

Michele Allen
Portland, Maine

Jennifer Angelone
Portland, Maine
Comment: Making EVERYTHING we humans build or manufacture Cradle to Cradle, or C2C certified would be a major step towards ensuring the health of our planet and our own survival.

Jessica Antonez
Portland, Maine

Joy Ash
Portland, Maine

Deborah Aylward
Portland, Maine

Louise Backer
Portland, Maine

Adinah Barnett
Portland, Maine
Comment: I have been a Portland, Maine resident for over 25 years. Way back in the mid 90's I started saving my recyclables, sorting them, and taking them to the 'silver bullet' recycling containers that used to be on Marginal Way. I did this for years while being a single mother of two, working, and being active in my community because I believe in being conscious of our waste and diverting the waste stream whenever possible by avoiding purchase, reusing, and recycling. Then, when Portland began curbside recycling I participated by sorting my recyclables---then several years ago they changed to 'don't bother sorting'...hmmm...mysterious. Was it going in the incinerator? We wondered. All this to say, Americans, Portlanders, are smart and resourceful enough to get serious about our waste. Look at what that city in Taiwan does--citizens bring all trash and recyclables out to meet the truck and put everything in the proper bins...it can be done! We need to be far far less focused on convenience!

Adinah Barnett
Portland, Maine
Comment: Many of us have recycled for decades, including before there was curbside recycling and we had to separate our recyclables and drive them to the 'silver bullet' bins miles away. People are willing to do what they can (so long as it makes sense and isn't ridiculously confusing, ie: items having the number and recycling symbol on the bottom, but not being taken locally in certain sizes, etc). But this is obviously not enough, or we we wouldn't continue to have the problem we do of never even inching forward to meet our community

recycling goals. Please, please, please, follow the lead of the European Union and many provinces of Canada and make the producer of the packaging cover costs of recycling the object. This will undoubtedly push them forward on innovative, sustainable packaging design and give people good paying jobs with an eco-minded outlook. More people will be able to work on the field of recycling and reuse. Plus, it will cut costs and clean up the environment, all big wins!

Catherine Bart
Portland, Maine

Matt Beattie
Portland, Maine

Scott Benson
Portland, Maine

Susan Bernat
Portland, Maine

David Blais
Portland, Maine

Sadie Bliss
Portland, Maine

Dustin Bonk
Portland, Maine

Susan Bosco
Portland, Maine

Sarah Braik
Portland, Maine
Comment: This is terribly important-consumers shouldn't be the ones paying the cost for irresponsible packaging practices. We need cradle to grave technology in every sector.

Suzanne Brewer
Portland, Maine

Nathan Broaddus
Portland, Maine

Chelsea Brown
Portland, Maine

Martha Burke
Portland, Maine
Comment: This is so much needed. Protect our children and grandchildren.

Laurel Burns
Portland, Maine

Katrina Bussiere-Venhuizen
Portland, Maine

Kristina Catomeris
Portland, Maine

Rosemary Cleary
Portland, Maine

Aurora Cobb
Portland, Maine

Wayne Cobb
Portland, Maine

Lydia Coburn
Portland, Maine

Margaret Colford
Portland, Maine

Dana Colihan
Portland, Maine

Jenn Conway
Portland, Maine

Catherine Crute
Portland, Maine

Seana Cullinan
Portland, Maine

Laurie Davis
Portland, Maine

Lien De Brouckere
Portland, Maine

Deb Denbow
Portland, Maine

Cheryl Denis
Portland, Maine

Jacqui Deveneau
Portland, Maine

Joan Dinsmore
Portland, Maine
Comment: Wonderful video on Recycling.

Sarah Dodgin
Portland, Maine

Juliana Dubovsky
Portland, Maine

Veronica Dudar
Portland, Maine

Peter Dugas
Portland, Maine

Hannah Durham
Portland, Maine

c eaton
Portland, Maine

John Eder
Portland, Maine

Barbara Fiore
Portland, Maine

Linda Ford
Portland, Maine

Christopher Fraser
Portland, Maine

Francesca Galluccio-Steele
Portland, Maine

William Garcelon
Portland, Maine

Katherine Gardner
Portland, Maine

Neill Gemmel
Portland, Maine

Tess Grossi
Portland, Maine
Comment: Companies need to be more responsible with the packaging of their products!

Stephanie Hampton
Portland, Maine
Comment: Please also have corporations pay for the costs of recycling all the mail order magazines they send consumers. Consumers should not have to receive all these junk mail catalogs. Massive amounts of garbage are created by multiple mailings of mail order catalogs to customers that didn't request a catalog and don't want to receive them.

Camryn Hansen
Portland, Maine

Rick Harbison
Portland, Maine

Charlotte Harrison
Portland, Maine

Elizabeth Hays
Portland, Maine

Jennifer Heald
Portland, Maine

Anne Heminway
Portland, Maine

Angela Henry
Portland, Maine

Alexandra Hewitt
Portland, Maine

Matthew Hock
Portland, Maine
Comment: Long overdue!

Linda Hoskins
Portland, Maine
Comment: Beyond this important step, we need to require biodegradable packaging.

Jill Howard
Portland, Maine

Lena Ives
Portland, Maine

Kristin Jackson
Portland, Maine

Bruce Jacobs
Portland, Maine

Sophie Janeway
Portland, Maine

Carole Jean
Portland, Maine
Comment: Recycling, matters! We can all make a difference!

Hannah Johnson
Portland, Maine

Bobbie Keilson
Portland, Maine

Mira Keller
Portland, Maine

Seth Keller
Portland, Maine

Logan Kendzierski Macdonald
Portland, Maine

Karre Kern
Portland, Maine

Colleen Khoury
Portland, Maine

Naomi Kronlokken
Portland, Maine

Jodie Lapchick
Portland, Maine

Sam Lawrence
Portland, Maine

Emily Lesher
Portland, Maine
Comment: Recycling is broken... we need to use less plastic to begin with - more paper packaging please.

Genevieve Leslie
Portland, Maine

Alan Liska
Portland, Maine

Alison Livingston
Portland, Maine

Britta Livonius
Portland, Maine

Delaney Loring
Portland, Maine

Elizabeth Lowell
Portland, Maine

Karen Luse
Portland, Maine
Comment: We need to reframe our response to recycling in our move towards sustainability.

Amanda Macleod
Portland, Maine

Anu Makynen
Portland, Maine

Eleanor Mann
Portland, Maine

Vanessa Marcoux
Portland, Maine

Erica Marcus
Portland, Maine

Jennifer McEdward
Portland, Maine

Jenna McGuire
Portland, Maine

Don Miller
Portland, Maine
Comment: Recycling in Maine is too important to fail.

Troy Moon
Portland, Maine
Comment: It is high time manufacturers took some responsibility for the packaging waste they create instead of relying local government to carry the burden alone.

Kevin Mooney
Portland, Maine

Ananda Moor-Jankowski
Portland, Maine

Michael Moran
Portland, Maine

Jackie Moreau
Portland, Maine

Kimberly Morrill
Portland, Maine

Leah Morton
Portland, Maine

Jennifer Murphy
Portland, Maine

Nancy Nickerson
Portland, Maine

Lee Nicoloff
Portland, Maine

Susan Nielsen
Portland, Maine

Jennifer O'Connell
Portland, Maine

Molana Oei
Portland, Maine
Comment: I support this effort because the rate at which we are producing garbage is untenable for life on earth. Really we ought to stop producing this stuff to begin with, because while wonderful, recycling alone is not enough. We need to start thinking less of ourselves as humans and remember that there are other species that have to contend with the messes we make. Sincerely, Molana Oei

Nancy Olmstead
Portland, Maine

Erik Osborn
Portland, Maine
Comment: ERP is common-sense environmental economics. With the current system, manufactures have no direct incentive to maximize the recyclability of their packaging. Maine communities pay the cost, and manufacturers who

choose not to improve their packaging get a free ride. EPR pushes the responsibility back to the manufacturer, who is the one who actually has the power to change their practices and lower environmental and economic costs for us all.

Jill Osgood
Portland, Maine

Susan Pastore
Portland, Maine
Comment: It distresses me that although the administration in the 'senior' housing where I live has a recycle dumpster and that almost all that goes into this dumpster is 'black bagged' which means it is destined for land fill. I am able to carry my trash to the dumpster un-bagged but most here rely on maintenance to do the right thing. I was able to persuade administration to initiate 'Garbage to Garden' which works well in dining room and kitchen...the Bistro is not as successful. Thank you for all you do, Sue

Margaret Perkins
Portland, Maine

Patricia Perrier
Portland, Maine
Comment: I am glad to see something like this emerging. Thanks for contacting me.

Leticia Plate
Portland, Maine

Eileen Purdy
Portland, Maine
Comment: Reduction of refuse must start at the source. We as a world must acknowledge that the great convenience (sometimes not!) of currently used materials has a downside that is not what we want for our world. We must start making our wishes known and support legislation that restricts use of such materials. And endorse programs that require manufacturers and packagers to redeem and effectively recycle materials as appropriate.

Barbara Rachel
Portland, Maine
Comment: It is not enough to dutifully crush our cardboard etc, it's necessary to reduce packaging. At what price convenience? The destruction of a planet? Thanks Barbara Rachel

Ginger Raspiller
Portland, Maine

Phyllis Reames
Portland, Maine

Marlies Reppenhagen
Portland, Maine

MIKE ROYLOS
Portland, Maine
Comment: I'm with you!

Gloria Sclar
Portland, Maine

Priscilla Skerry
Portland, Maine
Comment: It is time...in fact, over due. Corporations, if they're to be 'good citizens', must take responsibility for the waste that is created in this 'rapid response (i.e.transportation and delivery) culture being fostered. The waste is unacceptable. Recyling must begin with those who are fostering this conspicuous consumption that too many are now caught up in. The health of our planet, and us living and dependent on it makes it mandatory.

Matthew Smith
Portland, Maine

Marion Snyder
Portland, Maine
Comment: Please pass an 'extended producer responsibility for Packaging' law.

Anja Stevens
Portland, Maine

Romy Stich
Portland, Maine
Comment: Stop with all of the excess plastic packaging, go back to glass bottles and get rid of the Styrofoam! We need more bins as well.

Lindsay Strout
Portland, Maine

Deirdre Sulka-Meister
Portland, Maine
Comment: Please help save our planet

Susan Swain
Portland, Maine
Comment: Maine residents want to recycle materials used in packaging but that means adapting the materials so they can be recycled and reused. We don’t want plastic in our oceans, forests or landfills.

John Tabb
Portland, Maine

Anna Marie Thron
Portland, Maine

Colleen Topper
Portland, Maine

Sally Trice
Portland, Maine

Casey Turner
Portland, Maine

Paula Urbach
Portland, Maine

Dietlind Vander Schaaf
Portland, Maine

Alison Violette
Portland, Maine

Alexander Wall
Portland, Maine

Joyce Walworth
Portland, Maine

William Weber
Portland, Maine
Comment: Packaging today is madness. I received a shipment from CVS Caremark yesterday. The object I ordered was 3 inches wide and 24 inches long. It was shipped in a cardboard box 24 in X 18in X 12 in high.

Doug Welch
Portland, Maine

Dana Wilfahrt
Portland, Maine

Margaret Williams
Portland, Maine

Lois Ann Winter
Portland, Maine

Kelsey Wood
Portland, Maine

Margo Wood
Portland, Maine

Peggy York
Portland, Maine

Peggy York
Portland, Maine
Comment: pass an extended producer responsibility for packagin law.

Sharon Zelonish
Portland, Maine

Lam Zimet
Portland, Maine

Ron Letourneau
Pownal, Maine

Derek Lovitch
Pownal, Maine

Janet Lynch
Pownal, Maine
Comment: We cannot afford not to recycle. We must also do what we can to reduce non-biodegradable waste for starters.

Rosita Moore
Pownal, Maine

Hana Boucher
Presque Isle, Maine

Loretta Coty
Presque Isle, Maine

Ward Gerow
Presque Isle, Maine

Brady Miller
Presque Isle, Maine

Pamela Sherman
Presque Isle, Maine

Austin Thibeau
Presque Isle, Maine

J Wang
Presque Isle, Maine

Mason Young
Presque Isle, Maine

Stephanie Bailey
Princeton, Maine

Tracey Thibaudeau
Prospect Harbor, Maine
Comment: Thank you so much for making an effort !!! Patenting should also include a cradle to grave mechanism for only allowing packaging that can be recycled in the US or is completely biodegradable/sustainable...

Chad Kempton
Randolph, Maine
Comment: Please support efforts to recycle and reduce the use of single use plastics.

Stephanie Allemann
Rangeley, Maine
Comment: PLEASE, do something!

Susan Borko
Rangeley, Maine

Joanne Dunlap
Rangeley, Maine
Comment: We need an all [lastics recycling. Brand new but melts it down back to the oil it was made from.

Janet Berard Doyle
Raymond, Maine

Jami Fitch
Raymond, Maine

Scott Powers
Raymond, Maine

June Wagner
Readfield, Maine

Beth Comeau
Richmond, Maine

Joyce Gracie
Richmond, Maine

Keith Guiou
Richmond, Maine

Penny Holt
Richmond, Maine

Denise Ranger
Richmond, Maine

Jennifer Small
Richmond, Maine

Lisa Jackson
Robbinston, Maine

S Bartz
Rockland, Maine

Steven Miller
Rockland, Maine
Comment: My town of Bucksport was recycling plastic numbers 1 through 7 a year ago, but now only 1 and no glass. Heck, I can work for the dump instead of the uptight old man only concerned about being rude. So I sign this petition, because I believe Maine can lead the country by example in healthy change by recycling, using renewable energy, and transitioning to electric vehicles.

Gail Presley
Rockland, Maine
Comment: We must be able to recycle as much as possible. In past years, I have seen our landfill staff take the bin full of glass that all the people thought they were recycling and dump it into the landfill because they had no one to take it. Everyone in the supply and consumption equation needs to do their part. Please help!

Linda Rice
Rockland, Maine

Karen Talbot
Rockland, Maine

Nicole Vanorse
Rockland, Maine

Oliver Vanorse-Jones
Rockland, Maine

Susan Wind
Rockland, Maine

Marcia Dietrich
Rockport, Maine

Austin Gallant
Rockport, Maine

Anita Goodwin
Rockport, Maine

Harrah Lord
Rockport, Maine

Jean Matlack
Rockport, Maine
Comment: So glad to know about this. Much needed reform. Thank you.

John Priestley
Rockport, Maine

molly ungs
Rockport, Maine

Margaret Vanorse
Rockport, Maine

Linda Kallin
Rome, Maine

Barbara Russell
Rome, Maine
Comment: The corporations created it for their benefit. Now they should be responsible for the 'waste' they created. There is only one earth and no one should want it to be over loaded with trash that doesn't decompose.

Andrew Cadot
Roque Bluffs, Maine

David Dowley
Roque Bluffs, Maine
Comment: Roque Bluffs has a contract with Mark Wright Disposal. I currently pay out of pocket if I recycle including cardboard and newspaper. Currently MWD is making money, it would seem, by charging customers to do the recycling. I'm unclear where the recycled products are being directed, are they really recycled? The larger question is, does MRD have an incentive to encourage recycling if it reduces his waste volume and potentially his bottom line? How do I, or better, the town of RB approach MWD asking that he support recycling?

Mary Dunn
Round Pond, Maine
Comment: Strike at the source!

J. Christopher Frost
Round Pond, Maine

Jody McKenzie-Harris
Round Pond, Maine

William Morton
Round Pond, Maine

Earle Kasregis
Roxbury, Maine

Maureen Sheldon
Rumford, Maine

Marie Estelle Gill
Sabattus, Maine
Comment: We need to reuse thing we use. Make something else from these products.

Morgan Inman
Sabattus, Maine

Benjamin Brown
Saco, Maine

Rachel Carey
Saco, Maine

Cathy Coffman
Saco, Maine

Mary Finn
Saco, Maine

ann fisher
Saco, Maine
Comment: We need to continue to be a progressive state in environmental issues, building on initiatives to ban billboards and plastic bags and instituting deposits for returnable bottles.

Lynwood Foss
Saco, Maine

Bre Furbish
Saco, Maine
Comment: We must move forward swiftly with recycling and dramatically reducing our waste. It is beyond critical and we should be doing everything we can as quickly as possible. People should have to make drastic changes.

Jennifer Genest
Saco, Maine

sonja gerken
Saco, Maine
Comment: Please pass the extended producer responsibility for packaging law. Thank you, Sonja Gerken

Andrew Goldberg
Saco, Maine
Comment: Let's make smart changes now, and not wait until our landfills are full, and wished we did this 20 years ago.

Eleni Gourdouros
Saco, Maine

Annie Levine
Saco, Maine

Matthew McGuirk
Saco, Maine

Patrick Pierce
Saco, Maine

Joline Pothier
Saco, Maine
Comment: Please!

Ethan Richards
Saco, Maine

Joanne Roy
Saco, Maine
Comment: Glad to join all of you.

Randi Smith
Saco, Maine

James Sonia
Saco, Maine

Ellen Speirs
Saco, Maine
Comment: Please consider the recycling reform efforts for Maine, shifting the burden away from the taxpayers.

Mary Wiggin
Saco, Maine

Eric Winter
Saco, Maine
Comment: I am so proud of Maine's leadership in Bottle Bills. They work, they bring jobs and Maine has a great one! We should expand our impact to a broader framework. We in Maine should continue to provide leadership in this country toward better recycling programs. Getting producers to hold more responsibility in the downstream impacts of their products makes sense. We need EPR nationally. Dirigo (I lead)

Michael Mooney
Saint Albans, Maine

Hannah Mathieu
Saint David, Maine

Jan McCoy
Saint George, Maine

Kirsten Kelley
Salem Twp, Maine
Comment: This is an absolute imperative!! Covid 19 hit and the influx of out of staters with second homes in Maine hit our transfer stations like a Coronacane.. the WASTE is outrageous, the system incredibly frustrating, and terribly, terribly sad. Nobody cares because there is no money in it. The problem is on the FRONT end with corporations and manufacturers, I have ALWAYS said this. (My dad is a retired materials reduction engineer.) Imagine the money THEY could save if they never created this waste in the first place!! There is absolutely NO plan for the exit/deposit end of product life. Our Ocean beach sand the world over scientists say contains over 70% plastic micro-beads! Everything IS connected. I want to cry when I make my once a month (skimpy) trip to the station with my recyclables, at what I see being dumped there at OUR expense!!

Kayla Conley
Sanford, Maine

Kimberly Conley
Sanford, Maine

Michelle Conley
Sanford, Maine

Tom Conley
Sanford, Maine

Danielle Dunham
Sanford, Maine

Sarah Gould
Sanford, Maine

Eva Hagins
Sanford, Maine

Crystal Helmreich
Sanford, Maine
Comment: It is time!

Elizabeth Helmreich
Sanford, Maine

Barbara Herrgesell
Sanford, Maine
Comment: I collet my recyclables and take them to the town 'dump', as I live in a trailer park which does not collect recyclables. I have tried to talk them into it, but they say 'no way'; I'm sure our park rent would go up too. I realized yesterday that I should have done more, when I was on a trip with two others. We had ice cream. The plastic containers, after being empty, were put in a bag for trash. I asked for it, to recycle the plastic. The leader of the group laughed and said it's too much bother to wash them. (I do wonder if the use of water outweighs the saving them to recycle.) Speaking of water, as we left the restaurant, I looked at my half drunk glass of water...they won't give you a half a glass...and asked if they needed water in their water bottles. No, they had bought bottled water for the trip. This is prevalent. It makes me sick to know that water goes down the drain. My thermos was full. They laughed when I said how many people have NO water. They wouldn't get this was...

Marilyn King
Sanford, Maine
Comment: All through the pandemic I have ordered all household goods on line. I have noticed that some businesses are trying to reduce packaging waste, but we still have a long way to go. I am all for reducing any waste we can in any way we can. Thank you for this important initiative to reform recycling in our beautiful state of Maine.

Dawn Luis
Sanford, Maine

Jill McCracken
Sanford, Maine

Christina Osmer
Sanford, Maine

Ellen Papale
Sanford, Maine
Comment: We need to be more aware of recycling, reuse, and be more mindful of the packaging we buy. At this time it is almost impossible to find stuff not wrapped in plastic. The cost of our pay to throw bags are going up. If we are going to reduce what we throw away (which would save $) we need better packaging. The producer's of packaging that is not

recyclable need to share in the burden we consumers at this time are paying when we buy their products.

Lisa Rock
Sanford, Maine

Amanda Violette
Sanford, Maine

Meredith Perkins
Sangerville, Maine
Comment: While reforming recycling in Maine, please add the 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law.

Maureen Dowd
Sargentville, Maine

Tracey Allen
Scarborough, Maine

Christian Banker
Scarborough, Maine

Meredith Banker
Scarborough, Maine

Betsy Barrett
Scarborough, Maine

Rita Breton
Scarborough, Maine

Christopher Carder
Scarborough, Maine

Ann Carman
Scarborough, Maine

Julie Carter
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: Recycling is key to preserving the environment...It must be saved.

Jaymie Chamberlin
Scarborough, Maine

Joan Clinton
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: Producers should bear more responsibility for using recyclable materials .

Debbie Dembski
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: We are avid recyclers yet still find what can and what can not be recycled confusing. Also this goes here and that goes there, which discourage busy families from recycling more - we go one place for food scraps, one place for yard waste & and metal, wood, other and another place for large cardboard - plus we separate garbage from recycled materials for curb pick-up. We are retired so have more time to do all this, but working folks & families may not. We need to make recycling easier. We need to lessen what we waste/need to recycle in the first place.

Brian Englishman
Scarborough, Maine

Alberta Follansbee
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: If we know better, we should do better. Let's do better.

Mark Follansbee
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: We need to get this right!

Stan Gawron
Scarborough, Maine

Donna Gordon
Scarborough, Maine

Lisa Greenlaw
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: Recycling is extremely important to me! I have been actively and regularly recycling since the mid-1990s. I believe it's not only vital to our community and planet to recycle, but, it's also the right thing to do! As a consumer, I feel it's extremely important to know what can and cannot be recycled. I find that a fair share of the healthy products I regularly use do not have clear recycling guidelines, which requires me to leave them out of recycling and send them off to the dump via my weekly local curbside pick-up. Ideally, it would be wonderful if all 50 states would be part of a larger movement for enforcing all food companies to market products that are packaged and sold in recyclable packaging. In addition, food waste needs to be removed from plastic trash bags and placed into renewable composting programs...it does not decompose, only creates gases. I ask that you please be proactive and a contributing part of recycling in our treasured state of Maine! Thank you. :)

Steven Hill
Scarborough, Maine

Barbara Klie
Scarborough, Maine

Marc Lausier
Scarborough, Maine

Sandra Macmahon
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: Recycling is more important than ever. If I see many more pictures of birds, sea creatures, and other animals dying because their stomachs are filled with plastic or dying

because they are tied up with it and can't breathe, I am going to have nightmares. I think ALL plastic should be recyclable. And sometimes it is really hard to read the recycle logo because it's so small. I know families are terribly busy, tired, and worried, but maybe it could be a child's chore to check and recycle. Please HELP!

Sadie McCurry
Scarborough, Maine

Debra McDonough
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: A great way to incentivize more recyclable packaging. Thanks for leading this initiative.

Mara McDonough
Scarborough, Maine

Jane Palmer
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: Recycling -- and RECYCLABLE PACKAGING -- are absolutely essential for our quality of life now and for the future condition of the planet that we are leaving for our children and grandchildren. In order for decent living conditions in years to come, recycling in Maine must be reformed, upgraded, and extended. An 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law is a necessary part of the picture of ensuring that Mainers of the future are not left to drown in garbage, especially plastic garbage that increases global warming as it deteriorates. This must be a priority!

Elliot Robinson
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: We need legislation to curb waste, especially plastic waste. It still comes down to individual effort to make it work. people need to make their recycle waste as clean and useful as possible and avoid buying more junk to throw away wherever possible. Just take coffee cups as a for instance, having your reusable cup refilled each time you stop for coffee would certainly help. There is no shortage of things we didn't waste in years gone by. The idea that it's always cheaper to buy a new, throw away jug than to wash out the old one is something that has been invented in my lifetime. I will be 80 Friday and I really think we are living in a crazy time. waste is the way we go.... 'use it up, wear it out, make it do or do with out'.... words we lived by. credit to: Don Grooms.....

Linda Stevens
Scarborough, Maine

Francis Weld
Scarborough, Maine

Greg Williams
Scarborough, Maine
Comment: As a longtime waste industry professional, I wholeheartedly support this initiative.

Emily Beck
Seal Cove, Maine

Greg Christianson
Seal Cove, Maine
Comment: Recycling has to be a high priority for individuals, businesses, communities, cities, and states. Recycling and extensive reuse of containers needs to be an integral part of our capitalism, or we are all soon to be buried alive beneath our own trash.

Gabrielle Graham
Seal Cove, Maine

Richard Smith
Seal Cove, Maine

Emily Davis
Seal Harbor, Maine
Comment: Please support recycling reform, so that we may have new economic opportunities from the proper use of recaptured goods. We can have a huge new peaceful and prosperous economy including boons such as fuel from #6 plastic, fabrics from #2, and heating oil. Boxboard needs to be handled efficiently, recycled and repurposed, and with a new market(I.e. Maine could produce recycled to-go packaging that is compostable), as it is a wasted opportunity for packaging industries and green industries to have it fill our landfills. Thanks, Emily Davis

Sydney Rockefeller
Seal Harbor, Maine
Comment: I am very heartened to see this. Those of us who are working on recycling on Mount Desert Island are confused and frustrasted that we feel we are going backwards. We pray the Fiberite is going to work, but in the meantime we are unable to recycle all that were able to in the past. I am hoping that your work will prevail! Thank-you!

Sandra swinburne
Seal Harbor, Maine

Jessica Alexander
Searsmont, Maine

Martin Bartlett
Searsmont, Maine
Comment: 'Leave only your tracks.'

Liv Detrick
Searsmont, Maine

William Leavenworth
Searsmont, Maine

Jean Wakem
Searsmont, Maine

Kaitlyn Johnson
Searsport, Maine
Comment: Thank you!!

Elaine Morse
Searsport, Maine

Kendra Newcombe
Searsport, Maine

Richard Schweikert
Searsport, Maine
Comment: We need a better sort system in my town.

Astrig Tanguay
Searsport, Maine
Comment: Recycle, reuse and replace with better methods of packaging!

Rebecca Tripp
Searsport, Maine

Janet Williams
Searsport, Maine

Alanna Doughty
Sebago, Maine
Comment: How do we continue to create materials that cannot be recycled, expect other countries across the globe to deal with our recycling, and not already have a system in place to manage our waste and recycled materials? This is a long time coming and I fully support recycling reform from the manufacturer through to the consumer and recycling facility. Cradle to cradle. Thank you.

Marilyn Miller
Sedgwick, Maine

Margaret Phillips
Shirley Mills, Maine

Keith Dubois
Sidney, Maine
Comment: I live in Sidney and during the past year, our recycling efforts have been significantly hampered. There is great confusion over what can be recycled and the list of recyclables seems to change every time I go to the transfer station. I support your efforts.

Sienna-Morgan Glavin
Sidney, Maine

Jennifer Sanborn
Sidney, Maine

Tom Vigue
Sidney, Maine
Comment: Making manufacturers own some of the responsibility for the eventual disposal of packaging and disposable products could be a real game-changer. In Europe this is already an old idea. We definitely should adopt it.

Debra Burnham
Skowhegan, Maine
Comment: Recycling is a good task for us all to continue to do for our planet. Businesses should help make products that can be recycled to preserve our planet forever.

Susan Cochran
Skowhegan, Maine

Robert Conkling
Skowhegan, Maine

Roger Renfrew
Skowhegan, Maine
Comment: We need to share the costs of keeping waste out of our environment. Once companies are responsible for costs, American ingenuity will be rewarded for finding alternate approaches to this problem.

Bo Fauth
Sorrento, Maine

Jane Adams
South Berwick, Maine

Roberta Beavers
South Berwick, Maine

Barbara Colucci
South Berwick, Maine
Comment: As humans we need to do better

Tim Dyson
South Berwick, Maine

Deborah Ganster
South Berwick, Maine
Comment: Honestly, this is a no-brainer. We are all victims of the companies who produce consumer goods and the companies who ship them. I am constantly writing to companies who engage in the manufacture of products and the use of excessive unnecessary packaging using materials that aren't even recycle-able!! I NEVER get a response. Consumers who WANT A CHOICE do not have any except to find other solutions to buying goods. ANd in many cases that may not be an option. These companies will not change their ethics unless it affects their bottom line. IT IS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY for the environment and consumers to pay the price of this thoughtless extravagance and arrogance.

Lydia Higgins
South Berwick, Maine

Anthony Karlberg
South Berwick, Maine

Joan Newton
South Berwick, Maine
Comment: I'm tired of my food, clothing, cleaning and washing products, etc., etc. being housed in plastic that, to my understanding, can no longer be easily recycled. I call on the corporations that have the authority and power to make better choices, to do so. I ask our lawmakers to pass an extended producer responsibility for packaging law. Thank you.

Patricia Robinson
South Berwick, Maine
Comment: there is way too much plastic from packaging, bottles, plastic wrap, much of it is found as litter especially the little liquor nips ugh

Zoe Ross
South Berwick, Maine

Sara Busch
South Bristol, Maine

Richard Munson
South Bristol, Maine
Comment: Single use plastic in packaging must be OUTLAWED. IF #2 grade can not be afforded then glass and/or alternative packaging materials that are recyclable must be mandated.

Josephine Vaughan
South Bristol, Maine

Jennifer Williamson
South Bristol, Maine

Lilja Bernheim
South China, Maine

Robert Cote
South China, Maine

Maria Cruz
South China, Maine
Comment: There are so many necessary products today that can only be purchased in non-recyclable containers that have worthless and misleading recycling symbols on them. Our trash can overflows with them every week, and if they actually were recyclable, that's what we would be doing with them. Please pass recycling reform that will make corporations responsible and put financial pressure on them to actually start using only recyclable containers for their products or pay a heavy price.

Leah Howard-Berry
South China, Maine

Emily McCarthy
South China, Maine

Katy McCormac
South China, Maine

Harold Winters
South China, Maine

Jayne Winters
South China, Maine

Diane Bartholomew
South Freeport, Maine

Susan Cherbuliez
South Freeport, Maine
Comment: It is urgent that you pass this bill in order to make recycling here in Maine more effective, by putting some of the responsibility on the producers.

Tom Foote
South Freeport, Maine

Daniel Freund
South Freeport, Maine
Comment: Time for society to more accurately price the cost of goods and services. Pollution cost, including environmental degradation due to solid waste disposal must be incorporated into the price, thereby rewarding the companies that engineer more intelligently, eliminating unwarranted packaging.

Julie Freund
South Freeport, Maine

Jennifer Pope
South Freeport, Maine

Bonnie Vierthaler
South Freeport, Maine

Natasha Blake
South Paris, Maine

Katherine Branch
South Paris, Maine

Carl Costanzi
South Paris, Maine

Gladys Foster
South Paris, Maine
Comment: Please do NOT stop recycling in Maine, but it does need to be cost worthy. Don't buy what cannot be recycled.

Kerry Read
South Paris, Maine

Richard Baker
South Portland, Maine
Comment: Please push this important issue

Louisa Beckett
South Portland, Maine
Comment: We all are responsible for our earth and recycling is a part of our responsibility and that of corporations.

Mary Berguin
South Portland, Maine

John Bernard
South Portland, Maine

Christopher Bond
South Portland, Maine

Rebecca Boulos
South Portland, Maine

Rizk Childs
South Portland, Maine
Comment: as a trash collector, it is common to get yelled at for refusing contaminated recycle. i sort as much as possible to make ecomaine's job easier and more efficient. i often pull in loads contaminated up to 50% trash from greater portland.

Denison Church
South Portland, Maine

Kelly Corbin
South Portland, Maine
Comment: It's past time for corporations to enact cradle to cradle product stewardship instead of passing the burden onto consumers. I strongly support recycling reform that requires corporations to share in the cost of recycling products that they make.

Kristine Corey
South Portland, Maine

Marie Corkery
South Portland, Maine
Comment: I am deeply concerned about waste caused by manufactures, including excessive packaging, the use of non recyclable package materials, fossil fuels to transport consumer goods, and the use of toxic and or non recyclable materials to manufacture goods, and the practice of built in insolence. Manufactures should be held accountable for not building better consumer goods.

Melissa Doughty
South Portland, Maine
Comment: We need more companies caring about our world and trying to help make it better! If they care more about profit then they need to be held accountable for their role in making the mess we are in. Less packaging and more earth friendly materials should be mandated by law or fines for clean up efforts be imposed.

Carol Flynn
South Portland, Maine
Comment: We have been enthusiastically recycling for several years & are thankful that our town, SoPo, has encouraged that practice by supplying bins for that purpose. That is why we are very discouraged by notices to NOT add several items to the bin that use to be accepted because those materials are no longer processed. My understanding is that much of that is due to China's change in policy. The PRO model sounds like a regional & productive answer to this problem. Please consider.

Carolyn Foley
South Portland, Maine

Aaron Fox
South Portland, Maine

Vicki Fox
South Portland, Maine
Comment: Like helping

Lydia Graves
South Portland, Maine

Kristina Grimaldi
South Portland, Maine

Monica Harty
South Portland, Maine

Angela Haskell
South Portland, Maine
Comment: It goes all the way to the top!

Marianne Hill
South Portland, Maine
Comment: We cannot afford to go backward -- our planet is in peril.

Lori Hodgson
South Portland, Maine

Julie Hopkins
South Portland, Maine

Nancy Hubley
South Portland, Maine

Amelia Hundt
South Portland, Maine

Jamien Jacobs
South Portland, Maine

Jean Keller
South Portland, Maine

Barbara Kriger
South Portland, Maine

Muriel K Kruppa
South Portland, Maine

Felicity Lodge
South Portland, Maine

Elizabeth Matthews
South Portland, Maine

Ian McBurney
South Portland, Maine

Nicholas McKenney
South Portland, Maine

James Melloh
South Portland, Maine
Comment: No recycling fraud by waste management companies. No more products with waste which cannot be reused. We all need to work together on this.

Catherine Merrow
South Portland, Maine
Comment: I am proud of our recycling services! Please work on the problems and keep the programs going strong!

James Merrow
South Portland, Maine

John Minahan
South Portland, Maine

Ann Morrill
South Portland, Maine

Yvonne Mumme
South Portland, Maine

Lisa Munderback
South Portland, Maine

Mary O'Connell
South Portland, Maine

Kathleen Potrepka
South Portland, Maine
Comment:

Gregg Raymond
South Portland, Maine

Tom Rogers
South Portland, Maine

Heidi Rosengren
South Portland, Maine

Carol Ross
South Portland, Maine

Annika Schmidt
South Portland, Maine

Danielle Seguin
South Portland, Maine

John Smith
South Portland, Maine
Comment: Put responsibility for recyclability on producers and vendors. They have control over packaging and shipping.

Lucie Springman
South Portland, Maine

Linden Thigpen
South Portland, Maine
Comment: Follow Singapore's lead turn it all into a renewable resource, fuel for communities. Keep it on site or within the state and reuse it all here.

Alison Traver
South Portland, Maine

Natalie West
South Portland, Maine
Comment: We all need to do everything we can to reduce waste. Maine forests can be a source of biodegradable packaging materials that will help the environment and provide jobs for Mainers.

Susan White
South Portland, Maine

Bethany Woodworth
South Portland, Maine

Grant Dinmore
South Thomaston, Maine

Thomas Goettel
South Thomaston, Maine

Roberta Goodell
South Thomaston, Maine

Sally Merchant
South Thomaston, Maine

Vivian Newman
South Thomaston, Maine

Fleet Davies
Southport, Maine
Comment: Great idea. Lets reduce our footprint!

Margaret Helming
Southport, Maine

Andrea Hutchins
Southport, Maine

Jane Lunt
Southport, Maine

John Lunt
Southport, Maine

Helen Meserve
Southport, Maine
Comment: Corporations should pay for the plastic products they inflict on the residents of Maine. We do not need more plastic. Let the corporations come up with alternative eco-friendly products for wrapping and displaying their goods, or else share in the cost of our recycling programs. Why should the taxpayer bear the burden?

Vernon Rail
Southport, Maine

Jane Southworth
Southport, Maine

Dick Atlee
Southwest Harbor, Maine
Comment: I look forward to seeing the ultimate DEP wording and learning how EPR has been implemented in the places it has actually accomplished the goals we have set for it in Maine.

Ann Dundon
Southwest Harbor, Maine
Comment: Seems corporations only look at the bottom line. If they have to pay for packaging, perhaps they will reduce it.

Dean Henry
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Mary Anne Hinckley
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Diana Lindquist
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Julie Meltzer
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Marjorie Monteleon
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Alex Newell Taylor
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Roger Rand
Southwest Harbor, Maine
Comment: My transfer station in Southwest Harbor has gone to an all- in -one- bin system for trash. This is what recycling has come to. Dumbing everything down for the people who can't be bothered to sort. Can't go but think that most goes into landfill!

Rebecca Williams
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Grace Hansen
Springvale, Maine

Noel Leigh
Springvale, Maine

Sherwin Start
Springvale, Maine
Comment: RECYCLING IS AN ESSENTIAL FUNCTION OF ALL MAINERS ! IF WE DONT RECYCLE TODAY- there will not be anything for GRAND& GREAT CHILDREN TO USE! DO WE WANT TO LEAVE THIS LEGACY BEHIND FOR THEM OR DO WE WANT TO WASTE EVERYTHING WE THROW AWAY ?? SHERWIN START Springvale ,Maine.

Leonard Greenhalgh
Spruce Head, Maine
Comment: When we throw things away, where is away?

Greg Soutiea
Spruce Head, Maine
Comment: As a small business owner of the Craignair Inn and Restaurant (22 rooms and 54 seat restaurant) I support this reform.

Shane Eherts
Standish, Maine

Carmen Gauthier
Starks, Maine
Comment: The recycling program in Starks is a bad joke. And it costs us as property tax payers more each year and they are accepting less items to recycle. What Joe Hayden doesn't accept for recycling I take to Farmington United Way to recycle. And since when can a town selectman get paid with tax payers' money to perform recycling in the town? Isn't that unethical at least and illegal at most?

Elizabeth Smedberg
Starks, Maine
Comment: Recycle!

Donald Parker
Steep Falls, Maine
Comment: I strongly support recycling; it makes sense!

Georgianna Kosciusko
Stetson, Maine
Comment: It is time that recycling Reform for Maine is available!

Jeff Beckley
Steuben, Maine
Comment: Packaging is such a HUGE problem in the way it litters our planet, depletes hard to replace resources, harms wildlife, poisons the air and water we need to live healthy lives. So much of it is unnecessary and wasteful, and even when it is needed there are healthier alternatives. It way past time to create incentives (or disincentives) to move in the right direction to limit the negative impacts of packaging. This bill will help address the problem at it's source. Yeah!!!

Maddrey Coover
Steuben, Maine
Comment: We lost our town's recycling last year. It is very sad to send so much plastic to waste now.

Katherine Doble
Steuben, Maine

Peggy Drake
Steuben, Maine
Comment:

Shelly Shapiro
Steuben, Maine
Comment: Ever since our local recycling center closed, I have been made aware of just how much waste we generate--even with all food waste going into our composter. We are trying to cut back on other waste, but it is difficult to avoid all the extensive packaging involved in all the products we buy. There has to be a way for us all to do better. Extended Producer Responsibility for Packing would be a start.

Maryann Smale
Steuben, Maine
Comment: I was very upset when my local recycle place was shut down. Now there is nowhere to take my recycling and I have to throw everything in the garbage. I was always happy to recycle. I feel guilty. We must start the programs again!!

Barbara Smith
Steuben, Maine

Abbie Bradford
Stillwater, Maine

Ed Spencer
Stillwater, Maine

Donna Gold
Stockton Springs, Maine

Beth Smith
Stockton Springs, Maine

Jennifer Spang
Stockton Springs, Maine

Martha Stamp
Stockton Springs, Maine

Janet Arens
Stoneham, Maine

Erin Klemenz
Stonington, Maine

Laura Lawford
Stonington, Maine

Leanna Targett
Strong, Maine

Paul Breeden
Sullivan, Maine

Jill Ryder
Sullivan, Maine

Marie Louise Morandi Long Zwicker
Sullivan, Maine
Comment: pressure must be put on corporations to stop producing so many goods that are packaged in plastics, and also ensure that recycling programs are open to taking more recycled plastics, metals and paper goods.

Betsy Armstrong
Surry, Maine

Nancy Hathaway
Surry, Maine
Comment: Yes. Something needs to be done The director of Blue Hill dump seems to do nothing to encourage recycling and even the solid waste committee. I've tried for years to get recycling to happen. They say it is but it isn't. I visited s gardiner years ago and the person in charge was helping folks w their recycling. Businesses don't seem to recycle either Thx for your efforts

Stephen Hildebrand
Surry, Main

Katherine Lane
Surry, Maine

Jennifer Lipka
Surry, Maine

Paula Mrozicki
Surry, Maine

Riva O'Rourke
Surry, Maine
Comment: #BacktoPERC

Chris Stark
Surry, Maine

Marc Swartzbaugh
Surry, Maine

Mandi Davis
Swans Island, Maine

John Trask
Swans Island, Maine
Comment: The senders should pay the extra costs for processing bulky packaging.

Carol Simon
Swanville, Maine
Comment: People who buy materials for packaging their products should be responsible for providing recycling facilities for the packaging. Or--we could return to non-packaging! But we must keep plastics, particularly, out of air, water, and land; and our own bodies!

Susie Dennison
Temple, Maine

Marilyn 'Jo' Josephson
Temple, Maine

Greg Kimber
Temple, Maine

Beverly Feldt
Tenants Harbor, Maine
Comment: I hope that St. George adopts the effort to reform recycling in Maine.

Lawrence Hoodack
Tenants Harbor, Maine

Ernie Johnson
Tenants Harbor, Maine

Carla Skinder
Tenants Harbor, Maine
Comment: We are being buried in trash. It is time for corporations to step up to making packaging biodegradable.

Shlomit Auciello
Thomaston, Maine

Diana Beach
Thomaston, Maine

Kenneth Kijewski
Thomaston, Maine

Mimi Moore
Thomaston, Maine

Holly Spicer
Thomaston, Maine

Ali Askin
Thorndike, Maine

Nyla Bravesnow
Thorndike, Maine

Kenneth Copp
Thorndike, Maine

Rebecca Hagen
Thorndike, Maine
Comment: I recycle everything that my local recycle center takes. I feel this is an important issue and together we need to reduce the waste.

Andrew Hoglund
Thorndike, Maine
Comment: Recycling is the future.

Winifred Noyes
Thorndike, Maine
Comment: Recycling may not be the best form of waste reduction, that would be avoiding the manufacturing of waste in the first place, but it certainly beats trash going to a land fill or a waste processing facility. Please pass legislation to decrease waste production, increase recycling, increase re-use of waste materials in new ways, and require waste producers to pay their fair share of the costs of the programs. All that is a big job; time to get started! Wini Noyes Thorndike, ME

Mary Meier
Topahsm, Maine
Comment: All in favor of any initiatives that will lead to more recycling!

Patricia Allen
Topsham, Maine

James Amundsen
Topsham, Maine

Dana Appleby
Topsham, Maine

Elizabeth Armstrong
Topsham, Maine

Lynne Arnold
Topsham, Maine

Comment: Sounds like something we should have done a long time ago. This is our opportunity to do something really important for our town, our state, our country and our selves.

Judith Auten
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Passing EPR into law will encourage less packaging and the packaging that is used to be more easily recycled. It will help Maine towns continue to afford recycling programs and Mainers to continue to be responsible environmental stewards.

Susan Babb
Topsham, Maine

Katharine Babbitt
Topsham, Maine

Dianna Baribeau
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Now is not the time to be reducing our efforts to save our planet!

Donna Barmore
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I strongly support the passage of an 'extended producer responsibility for packaging' law

Connie Barras
Topsham, Maine

Mary Barron
Topsham, Maine

Robert Barry
Topsham, Maine

Kelly Barton
Topsham, Maine

Diane Belliveau
Topsham, Maine

Rayleen Berry
Topsham, Maine

Kathleen Boldt
Topsham, Maine

Michelle Borodinsky
Topsham, Maine

Victoria Boundy
Topsham, Maine

Robin Brooks
Topsham, Maine

Jeffrey Burns
Topsham, Maine

Leslie Byrne
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Thank you for doing this!!

Katie Byrnes
Topsham, Maine

ALROY CHOW
Topsham, Maine

Valerie Chow
Topsham, Maine

Janice Collins
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Fully support improved packaging efforts and recycling!

Susanne Colson
Topsham, Maine

Barbara Combs
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I support recycling reform for Maine to make it more efficient, sustainable, and equitable.

Harvey Congleton
Topsham, Maine

Brenna Coughlin
Topsham, Maine

Jacquelyn Cressy
Topsham, Maine

Steve Crowe
Topsham, Maine

Jennifer Curtis
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I value that Topsham invests in the future

Carol Davis
Topsham, Maine

Richard Davis
Topsham, Maine
Comment: This is a major issue. Involving the producers of waste in the solution is important.

Dave Demeo
Topsham, Maine

Jonna Demeo
Topsham, Maine

Stan DeOrsey
Topsham, Maine
Comment: reduce and eliminate, generally recycling only works once. Cut pesticides too!

Kiffi Diamond
Topsham, Maine

Deborah Doucett
Topsham, Maine

Rebecca Drewette-Card
Topsham, Maine

Maggie Dumais
Topsham, Maine

Melissa Dumont
Topsham, Maine

Elizabeth Durrell
Topsham, Maine

Carol Evans
Topsham, Maine

Charles Evans
Topsham, Maine

Bill Ewing
Topsham, Maine
Comment: As a recycler/composter and someone who spent 30 years working with all areas of the food industry, beginning to end, 'extended producer responsibility' is the first initiative that I have seen that will disrupt the folly that we call 'recycling'. Only the first 2 'R's' make any difference at all.....reduce & reuse.

Leah Farrell
Topsham, Maine

Sara Fitzgerald
Topsham, Maine

William Fitzsimmons
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I feel somewhat betrayed when I go to the recycling center and being told they don't accept certain types of plastic that are clearly marked as recyclable. I don't blame the employees as I understand there is no market for certain recyclables, but I do blame the packaging indusry for making containers that they claim are recyclable, but are clearly not marketable. We need to reform packaging at the point of sale and make suppliers responsible for buying back their output.

Daniel Flaig
Topsham, Maine

Hannah Flanagan
Topsham, Maine

John Forsyth
Topsham, Maine

David Frost
Topsham, Maine

Ann Gardner
Topsham, Maine

Roger Gaudreau
Topsham, Maine

Tom Gilbert
Topsham, Maine

Sherry Gleason
Topsham, Maine

Jennah Godo
Topsham, Maine

Mark Grandonico
Topsham, Maine

Travis Gray
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I am saddened by all the unrecyclable waste I need to throw in the trash lately. The transfer station doesn't take many of the plastics and small styrofoam like they used to. I would love to see more biodegradable and recyclable packaging coming out of our local businesses, especially supermarkets.

Katherine Greeley
Topsham, Maine

Theresa Green
Topsham, Maine
Comment: great work!

Jennifer Greenleaf
Topsham, Maine

Roland Guerette
Topsham, Maine

Dan & Lynda Hall
Topsham, Maine

Michael Hamilton
Topsham, Maine

Mary Haycock
Topsham, Maine

Rae Hebert
Topsham, Maine

Susan Hedgpeth-More
Topsham, Maine

Mary Henderson
Topsham, Maine
Comment: We must reduce plastics in our waste stream!

Mary Hobson
Topsham, Maine

Melissa Hoy
Topsham, Maine

Matthew Jauch
Topsham, Maine

Rebecca Jauch
Topsham, Maine

Acadia Jerome
Topsham, Maine

Colin Kelley
Topsham, Maine

Cheryl King
Topsham, Maine
Comment: To Whom It May Concern Less developed countries no longer want America's trash, so until corporations develop more sustainable packaging then it's only fair that they contribute to the costs of recycling.

Richard King
Topsham, Maine

Russ Kinne
Topsham, Maine

Kristen Kravitz
Topsham, Maine

M. Elaine Kurtz
Topsham, Maine

Nancy Kurtz
Topsham, Maine

Michael LaCharite
Topsham, Maine

Victor Langelo
Topsham, Maine
Comment: This is long overdue.

Amanda Larkin
Topsham, Maine

Cm Larson
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Let's enact this win-win option!

Elizabeth Lee
Topsham, Maine

Ginger Libby
Topsham, Maine

Jane Littlefield
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Please support this.

Susan Loebs
Topsham, Maine

Jessica Lopes
Topsham, Maine

katharine lyon
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I support this reform wholeheartedly and I will be very concerned if Topsham fails to join in, in this critical effort to fix Maine's recycling problems thank you

Patricia Maloney
Topsham, Maine
Comment: It matters in so many ways. So glad to support this effort.

Carol Martin
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Please reform our recycling programs to make them more efficient--and more understandable. Our recycler keeps changing the terms of what is and isn't recyclable, which discourages people from recycling. Most of my neighbors would be happy to keep recycling, if we just were kept informed of what the latest regulations are. Please simplify this situation, and stay put!

Eileen Martin
Topsham, Maine

Arthur and Charlotte Mary
Topsham, Maine

Joyce McPhetres
Topsham, Maine

Christian Meier
Topsham, Maine

Thomas Michaud
Topsham, Maine

Elizabeth Michel
Topsham, Maine

Jeanne Minchak
Topsham, Maine

Ruth Mlotek
Topsham, Maine

Stanley and Michelle Moody
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I want to be able to recycle all plastics. I wish we could just leave the packaging at the store. Maybe then they would ask producers to use less.

Stephen Munier
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Pls, let's make manufacturers & all big business more responsible for our environment! Pls pass this Bill ASAP! And encourage other states to do likewise! Thank You!

Harland Nadeau
Topsham, Maine

Thomas Oï¿½Keefe
Topsham, Maine

Judy O'Keefe
Topsham, Maine
Comment: I am in support of reforming recycling efforts in Maine to make it more complete

Bridgette Ortiz
Topsham, Maine

Jessica Parks
Topsham, Maine

Lyndsey Patton
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Yes, new thinking is needed! Thank you!

David Pease
Topsham, Maine

Steve Pelletier
Topsham, Maine

Jenn Pidgeon
Topsham, Maine

Joyce Polyniak
Topsham, Maine

Terry Porter
Topsham, Maine

Jennifer Poston
Topsham, Maine

Tiffany Pushard
Topsham, Maine

Brennan Radulski
Topsham, Maine

Susan Rae-Reeves
Topsham, Maine

Judith Redwine
Topsham, Maine

Susan Reed
Topsham, Maine

Diane Schetky
Topsham, Maine

Peggy Schick
Topsham, Maine

Mary Schreiber
Topsham, Maine

Henry Schwartz
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Please help us clean up our environment.

Erin scott
Topsham, Maine

Richard Snyder
Topsham, Maine
Comment: An important step in creating a cleaner planet.

Laura Sohval
Topsham, Maine

Lane Soltesz
Topsham, Maine

william spock
Topsham, Maine

Darwin Stanley
Topsham, Maine

Raija Suomela
Topsham, Maine

Denise Tepler
Topsham, Maine

Richard Thomas
Topsham, Maine

Daniel Tompkins
Topsham, Maine

Joseph Toste
Topsham, Maine

Leyza Toste
Topsham, Maine

Ron Turcotte
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Topsham and the world needs more recycling.

Amy Wallace
Topsham, Maine

Annette Waterman
Topsham, Maine

Jay Westra
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Yes please, recycling is critical to our future.

Nick Whatley
Topsham, Maine

Phin White
Topsham, Maine

Sara White
Topsham, Maine
Comment: We also need better recycling machinery which can handle smaller pieces like plastic medicine bottles and bottle caps which end up in landfill!

Susan White
Topsham, Maine

Ann Williams
Topsham, Maine
Comment: Topsham has been working hard towards this goal. It is hard when so many packaging materials are not recyclable.

Sarahjane Wing
Topsham, Maine

Edward Wolcott
Topsham, Maine

Linda Wolcott
Topsham, Maine

Barbara Acosta
Trenton, Maine
Comment: Our recycling in Trenton has been seriously curtailed in recent months making it difficult to do the right thing to care for our environment. In addition I have learned that a lot of the recycling we were sending overseas was simply getting dumped there. Reducing packaging would have MORE impact on our environment than recycling ever could.

Michael Gilmartin
Trenton, Maine

Bill Hammond
Trevett, Maine

Robin Jordan
Trevett, Maine
Comment: Recycling cannot and should not fall only on the shoulders of the end users and their towns. REDUCE- which starts at manufacturers- use fewer plastics and instead substitute more sustainable materials.

Trish Stevens
Troy, Maine

Sharon Martin
Turner, Maine
Comment: Let's get the trash off of our roadways and recycle as much as possible for the benefit of the environment. Asking the packagers to foot the bill for their packaging choices will quickly change bad behavior.

Samantha Carpentier
Union, Maine

Jon Ellis
Union, Maine

Keri Kaczor
Union, Maine

Maureen Rubano
Union, Maine

Denise Shaw
Union, Maine

John Shepard
Union, Maine
Comment: I'm the president of the board of directors for our regional solid waste management organization, so I especially value and appreciate this effort.

Joseph Skalecki
Union, Maine

Natalie Witherell
Union, Maine
Comment:

Tom Aversa
Unity, Maine
Comment: Sadly, my town recently decided that they couldn't afford to recycle many materials. I find this unacceptable. We need a better system and need to force businesses to shoulder the costs. If they pass it on to the consumer, it is a price worth paying.

Brian Byrne
Unity, Maine

Diana Hauser
Unity, Maine

Erin McCarten
Unity, Maine

Annie Sheble
Unity, Maine

Susan Siens
Unity, Maine
Comment: My understanding, from both news reports and my recycling center, is that China stopped accepting American recycling because it is so contaminated. People cannot be bothered to properly separate their recycling, to make sure it is clean, etc. I was shocked when I took a box of newspapers from my center to find the box filthy and full of trash from the household which sent it (and I know who it was because of the name on the Wall Street Journals which had been recycled).

Joan Atkinson
Vassalboro, Maine
Comment: Please do something to reform Maine's recycling system, and pass an extended producer responsibility and packaging law.

Peggy Horner
Vassalboro, Maine

Jen Noll
Vassalboro, Maine

Teresa Attean
Veazie, Maine

Karen Benson
Veazie, Maine

Lindy Moceus
Vienna, Maine
Comment: Recycling reform is long overdue. Why are we filling up our landfills with material that should be recycled? Why do we drill for oil, mine for ores, etc. then manufacture plastic products (made from oil) and metals (we mined for) and then throw them away in a landfill. Then we go and drill for more oil and mine for more metal...putting the environment at great risk. It is absolute insanity! This EPR for packaging bill must go through!

Isabelle Rogers
Vienna, Maine

Meghan Willing
Vienna, Maine

Stephen Bara
Waldo, Maine

Letitia Manning
Waldo, Maine
Comment: We need to improve our recycling programs and reduce the amount of throw-away packaging. There is trash all over the roads and beaches of Maine. Not only is it unsightly, harmful to the environment and a pain to clean up, it wastes all the resources that went into all that packaging. It also costs money to clean it up. Increase recycling and you will keep Maine cleaner, help protect our beautiful environment and save resources. In addition, we must force companies to reduce the amount of packaging, and to reengineer the type of packaging so that packaging is 'cradle to cradle'- it is designed to be used over and over, not single-use. There is nothing new about reduce, reuse and recycle, but now these actions are absolutely critical for a healthy future.

Tzevi Aho
Waldoboro, Maine

Krisanne Baker
Waldoboro, Maine
Comment: I can’t begin to tell you how many people I know who are upset over the rescindment of plastics recycling numbers one through seven at our local transfer station. People in my town and so many others worldwide, have really been getting on board, finally, with plastic recycling; then there is none. Please bring it back somehow, someway. This planet is drowning in plastic. I’m hoping it will at least be recycled until a plant based packing alternative takes hold of the world instead of plastic.

Melissa Dearborn
Waldoboro, Maine

Charles Delory
Waldoboro, Maine
Comment: It seems such a waste to throw away all of that plastic

Donna Denniston
Waldoboro, Maine

Heather L Dilbeck
Waldoboro, Maine
Comment: need to connect the municipalities together for a 'one stream' approach

Tatyana Eckstrand
Waldoboro, Maine

Charlene Jackens
Waldoboro, Maine

Jasmine Kauffman
Waldoboro, Maine

Mark Bargetz
Walpole, Maine

Tyler Gulden
Walpole, Maine

Alicia Ruiz Ojeda
Walpole, Maine
Comment: We need not only to reduce our waste generation (which requires of a bigger effort from companies to offer more sustainable packaging alternatives), but also having accessible ways for effectively recycling our inorganic (and composting our organic) materials. In many cities and countries in the world, waste is seeing as a product with the potential to being processed and become profitable, creating energy, jobs and an industry itself. We shouldn't see our waste as the final outcome of our lifestyles but have a circular economy approach where only what can't be reduced, re-purposed or re-utilized find a final low-emission and resilient destination.

Michael Uhl
Walpole, Maine

Genda Bonde
Warren, Maine

Stacey Hall
Warren, Maine

Katherine Holland
Warren, Maine
Comment: Now that our transfer station is now accepting only #2 plastics, the amount of trash we create has increased by 25-50%. The main culprits are large containers for salads, fruits, yogurt, mayonnaise and peanut butter jars, electronics and personal products. Surely manufacturers should turn their attention to packaging their products in a more logical way. Without incentives like laws, however, they are not going to do so. Please do what you can legislatively to force producers to package their products in more ecologically sensitive and practical, economical ways. Thank you.

Morgan Hynd
Warren, Maine

Kathryn Nichols
Warren, Maine

Julian Echeverria
Washburn, Maine

Taylor Novak
Washburn, Maine

Jlynn Frazier
Washington, Maine

Neil Gross
Washington, Maine
Comment: Improvement to recycling is urgently needed, especially for plastic.

Glenice Skelton
Washington, Maine
Comment: This is a very BIG important step to control plastics invading our environment

Yvonne Taylor
Washington, Maine

Pamela Crabtree
Waterboro, Maine

Jackie Elliott
Waterboro, Maine
Comment: Waste generation and disposal management is a huge problem for Maine citizens and their communities. There are proven ways of doing things more efficiently and saving on costs. The 'extended producer responsibility for packaging law' will help move us toward ways that are more sustainable for everyone.

Candace Meltzer
Waterboro, Maine

Seth Gallant
Waterford, Maine

Brie Holme
Waterford, Maine

Kerry Johnson
Waterford, Maine

Lydia Landesberg
Waterford, Maine
Comment: Please encourage recycling in our beautiful state. Thank you.

Carol Rothenberg
Waterford, Maine
Comment: Let's not place all of the responsibility on the consumer. Manufacturers need to make changes in packaging for the environment. We also need to promote local products that travel fewer miles and thus need simpler packaging.

Patricia Bolduc
Waterville, Maine

Deb Cloutier
Waterville, Maine

Scott Crossman
Waterville, Maine
Comment: We should not have to pay to recycle junk mail or the packaging forced on us by company that make and sell products to us.

Gale Davison
Waterville, Maine
Comment: Yes, for too long consumers and municipalities have been paying for packaging which is too much about marketing. Charge companies for their marketing which takes the form of packaging. If a product is worth buying it will sell itself. We have too little choice in our purchases since so much of what we buy is packaged in materials which don't degrade into healthy byproducts. Charge the ones who produce the excess waste. Have a surcharge on products that are sold in non-degradable packages.

Nina Gimond
Waterville, Maine

Janet R. Gray
Waterville, Maine
Comment: Let's DO this!

Stephanie Kierstead
Waterville, Maine
Comment: It's only fair to require the corporations who produce the goods to be responsible for reducing packaging and sharing in recycling. Recycling is a problem in my community because there is no market for much of the so called recyclable items.

William Lee
Waterville, Maine

Carolyn MacRae
Waterville, Maine
Comment: Please continue to support recycling by reforming recycling to make it more efficient and to reduce the burden on Maine's taxpayers.

John Markoe
Waterville, Maine

George Miller
Waterville, Maine

Lisa Miller
Waterville, Maine

Janine Moore
Waterville, Maine

Sylvia Niles
Waterville, Maine

Claire Prontnicki
Waterville, Maine
Comment: I've been picking up plastic trash in my neighborhood, and it's definitely getting worse! Even when people try to recycle, the wind blows lightweight containers right out of recycling bins (and ultimately into the river, from there to poison sea life). And a lot of plastic isn't even recyclable, at least economically. Industries have to get motivated to make their packaging more environmentally sustainable.

Jonathan Rogers
Waterville, Maine

Anna Beth Rynders
Waterville, Maine
Comment: I recycle to the best of my ability, and will continue to do so. I'm concerned about 'contaminated' loads and feel that everyone needs better information on what can be put in recycle bins and what cannot so that the process is more efficient and less costly. I'm hoping to encourage my neighbors here in our 16-unit condo association to do more recyling and am trying to think of ways I can help them to do so. Right now only about 4-5 units put out a recyle bin. I feel strongly that it is important for all of us to keep recycling and to find ways to get more people to do it, and to keep it a viable alternative to wastefulness.

Elizabeth Schiller
Waterville, Maine

Ellyn Smith
Waterville, Maine
Comment: I hate, loathe, despise having to throw away items that I have been accustomed to recycling. I have even started purchasing different brands and items so I don't have to put glass in the garbage. In a disposable culture (juice boxes, Capri sun pouches, individually packaged EVERYTHING) recycle reform is absolutely necessary.

Thomas Tietenberg
Waterville, Maine

Tamie Trainer
Waterville, Maine

Claire Waichler
Waterville, Maine
Comment: Shift the system, make producers implement sustainable processes!

Irene West
Waterville, Maine

Jon Wilder
Waterville, Maine

Linda Woods
Waterville, Maine
Comment: Reducing the amount of packaging is crucial. So much of it is non-recyclable. Please support this concept.

Leslie Burhoe
Wayne, Maine
Comment: I hope it is successful!

Leslie Lewandowski
Wayne, Maine

Diana McLaughlin
Wayne, Maine

Debbie Smith
Weld, Maine

Hannah Bradish
Wells, Maine

Eleanor Caffrey
Wells, Maine
Comment: Delighted to see someone take this on. We lost our recycling program the month after Trump took office!

Linda Dumey
Wells, Maine

Linda Grenfell
Wells, Maine
Comment: A small necessary step.

Joe Hardy
Wells, Maine
Comment: We've recycled since 1974, in various ways. We continue to recycle by using Wells Toan Transfer Station, but sadly we are far from the majority in this town. A more streamlined option, plus less waste produced, is long overdue. While we use our compost material on our gardens, a municipal option would be a huge benefit for others.

Carole Leblanc
Wells, Maine
Comment: I am one who has lost recycling service from my provider. As a retired person, it is difficult for me to use Wells' transfer center. PLEASE HELP TO RESTORE RECYCLING IN MAINE!!!

Cheryl Mills
Wells, Maine

Jamie Reynolds
Wells, Maine

Cynthia Riley
Wells, Maine

Molly Thompson
Wells, Maine

Megan Walsh
Wells, Maine
Comment: America has go to do something about recycling. Our waste is killing our planet. The nation has to make this a priority,

Beth Widmayer
Wells, Maine

Kathrin Wormwood
Wells, Maine

Michelle Donovan
West Baldwin, Maine

Vinnedge Lawrence
West Baldwin, Maine
Comment: Producers of recyclables should be required to help support the effort of towns such as mine to effectively recycle while reducing waste.+

Jordi St. John
West Bath, Maine

Mary Ellen Wilson
West Bath, Maine

Elizabeth Woodworth
West Bath, Maine

Leah Zartarian
West Bath, Maine

Betty J Dobson
West Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Casssandra Smith
West Farmington, Maine
Comment: We need to make recycling materials mandatory for all areas of Maine with that Mainers need access to public recycle bins throughout all communities as well as affordable pickup service.

Linda Gomeau
West Gardiner, Maine

Victoria Adams
West Kennebunk, Maine
Comment: Let's get back to reusable bags! We can pack them ourselves!

Emily Hicks
West Newfield, Maine
Comment: About time!

Barbara Murphy
West Paris, Maine
Comment: Shipping our waste overseas isnt the ‘answer, having responsibility to reduce plastic at the source is. We consumers have to do our part as well by shopping differently and choosing products with no additional plastic.

Kathleen Athearn
Westbrook, Maine

Kevin Bernard
Westbrook, Maine
Comment: Recycling programs in Maine are not working effectively to divert the wastestream from landfills. Reforming the collection processes is essential for a system that is flawed. A simple start with a big impact in other states are waste bans on organic materials that can easily be recycled. This should be a no brainer for environmentally conscious Mainers.

Erin Curren
Westbrook, Maine
Comment: We need this now!

Martha Goodale
Westbrook, Maine

Margaret Hickey
Westbrook, Maine

Toby Kilgore
Westbrook, Maine
Comment: Thank you for tackling this incredibly important issue! Maine taxpayers shouldn't have to pick up the tab for products and packaging that we have no control over creating. We need recycling reform so manufacturers take responsibility for designing items to be recyclable and less waste goes into Maine landfills.

Joanna Leary
Westbrook, Maine

Kim Matthews
Westbrook, Maine

E. Donald Naber
Westbrook, Maine
Comment: Packaging of products must be reduced by the manufacturers who must be held responsible for the waste they are creating. As consumers there is only so much we can do without them redesigning the packages of so many products.

Beth Schultz
Westbrook, Maine

susan sheloske
Westbrook, Maine

Joan Yates
Westbrook, Maine

Seth Mirsky
Westport Island, Maine

Roger Baston
Whitefield, Maine

Virginia Campbell
Whitefield, Maine
Comment: Whitefield is a victim of just this very thing. They no longer can provide recycling for many items. I have the advantage of using the Boothbay dump as well and they have a wonderful recycling program, but I often wonder where it all really goes.

Carole Cifrino
Whitefield, Maine

William Dalke
Whitefield, Maine

Robert De Lisle
Whitefield, Maine

Mary Dunn
Whitefield, Maine

Louisa Gorrill
Whitefield, Maine

Stephen Gorrill
Whitefield, Maine

Liza Gottlieb
Whitefield, Maine

Lise Hanners
Whitefield, Maine

Timothy Harkins
Whitefield, Maine

Jamie Houghton
Whitefield, Maine

Bertie Koller
Whitefield, Maine

Scott Mackenney
Whitefield, Maine

Anthony Marple
Whitefield, Maine

Natasha Mayers
Whitefield, Maine

Susanne Meidel
Whitefield, Maine

Laurie Mullens
Whitefield, Maine
Comment: Recycling should be mandatory and the powers to be need to figure out how we are going to get it done! Makes me sick that there isn't more done as far as recycling goes.

Eric Paetow
Whitefield, Maine

Lana Paetow
Whitefield, Maine

Kit Pfeiffer
Whitefield, Maine

Karyn Townsend
Whitefield, Maine

Carolyn Bourdeau
Whiting, Maine

Cynthia Holmes
Whiting, Maine

Rebecca Clark
Whitneyville, Maine
Comment: It bothers me to think of all the waste I've made in my lifetime. All of us are contributing to mountains of waste but we can turn this around a great deal and, and I hope, eliminate most of this waste by changing how we think about and manage packaging. Extended producer responsibility for packaging is a huge step in the right direction. We need to be introducing people to this at the town level so we can start to turn things around.

Gary Burke
Wilton, Maine

Barbara O'Reilly
Wilton, Maine
Comment: Please take steps to prevent us from becoming the trash planet! Your descendants are depending on you.

Robert O'Reilly
Wilton, Maine
Comment: Please do the right thing for everyone.

Nancy Prince
Wilton, Maine

Holly Windle
Wilton, Maine
Comment: We spend summers in Maine and have been impressed with the transfer station we use in Franklin County (and how the one my family used growing up has changed with the times). But there is a huge cost in money and health for the tremendous amount of packaging and non-reusable materials our country produces.

Joyce Bailey
Windham, Maine
Comment: Reducing packaging at the source makes common sense! I have travel to other countries where there is much less packaging, for the same products that we have in this country. Clearly, wasteful packaging is not needed.

Lucas Bernacki
Windham, Maine

Martha Briggs
Windham, Maine

Sarah Bronson
Windham, Maine

Tallyn Brown
Windham, Maine

John Buckley
Windham, Maine
Comment: Big Business is not cooperating but instead, is gouging small communities with waste packaging while they maximize their profits! Why did I expect anything less?

Judith Dickson
Windham, Maine
Comment: Great zoom yesterday. I used it as part of our homeschool curriculum, but I learned so much as well.

Rosanne Dombek
Windham, Maine

Ryan Dorland
Windham, Maine
Comment: As a Maine homeowner, I am in favor of updating recycling programs even at the expense of increased tax burden on corporations and by extension the increased prices of manufactured goods. Often the producers and distributors of goods get off easy and aren't concerned about the downstream impacts of packaging choices. It is time to change that and impose more stringent requirements on packaging throughout the country and state.

Deirdre Drennen
Windham, Maine

Jeff Dunlop
Windham, Maine

Tania Ferrante
Windham, Maine

Amy Ford
Windham, Maine

Wendy Haskell
Windham, Maine

Todd Martin
Windham, Maine
Comment: Maine towns are struggling to afford their recycling. Towns need help!

Lorrie Marx-Adams
Windham, Maine
Comment: The TIME IS NOW for us to pull out all the stops to save our Earth home. This is a great way to motivate manufacturers to do the right thing for the environment. It is unacceptable for manufacturers to continue their use of packaging such as styrofoam. It is time for us to stop production and use of any material that cannot be recycled and reused. There are biodegradable alternatives. We must step up and ensure all materials that are not biodegradable can be recycled. We must educate and make it easy for consumers to recycle.

Elizabeth Oatley
Windham, Maine

Roger Varney
Windham, Maine

Steve Hoad
Windsor, Maine
Comment: I've recycled materials since 1955. This effort only makes sense; if we have to buy things in packages let's have a producer led recycling initiative to help Maine get it done.

Meg Anzalone
Winslow, Maine
Comment: Please pass an extended producer responsibility for packaging law

Dan Camann
Winslow, Maine
Comment: Something has to be done to stop so much waste.

Peter Garrett
Winslow, Maine
Comment: Having manufacturers take responsibility for both their packaging and the recycling of the products they make is a no-brainer. We who purchase their products cannot be expected to figure out how to recycle mixed materials in one item. I understand that German law sets the standard for this kind of manufacturer's responsibility for end of useful life reuse of materials.

Sally Harwood
Winslow, Maine
Comment: Recycling is critical, and more so, reducing packaging at the source. Does a hammer really need a cardboard and plastic wrap?

Walter Keene
Winslow, Maine
Comment: I want us to recycle but I recently heard that it often costs more to recycle a product (such as plastic) than to make it from a raw material source (such as petroleum) so it doesn't work unless the government decides to put a fee on producing the product from the raw material source so that recycled products are competitive. Do you think it will be possible to do this? I do think we are using too much plastic. Elery Keene

Rhiannon Alley
Winter Harbor, Maine

Gordon Ward
Winter Harbor, Maine

Brenda Moot
Winterport, Maine
Comment: Help ME stay beautiful. Make corporations contribute to recycling programs. Pass legislation now!

Jane Stork
Winterport, Maine

Darrah Wagner
Winterport, Maine
Comment: We generate a disproportionate amount of waste in this country due to excess and non-recyclable packaging. It doesn't have to be this way. If producers are required to pay something to enhance recycling there might be a reduction in non-recyclable packaging. Thank you Darrah Wagner

Portia Hardy
Winthrop, Maine

Kirsten Nunery
Winthrop, Maine

Jean Pidacks
Winthrop, Maine

Gayle Roy
Winthrop, Maine

David Van Twistern
Winthrop, Maine

Chrystine Cromwell
Wiscasset, Maine

Marty Fox
Wiscasset, Maine

Nicole Graffam
Wiscasset, Maine

Lorna Laughland-Winthrop
Wiscasset, Maine
Comment: Please stores and consumer industries help us to improve the quality of the Earth's environment by providing the consumer with easily recyclable packaging

Brenda Olcott
Wiscasset, Maine

Anna Ridle
Wiscasset, Maine

greg woodring
Wiscasset, Maine

Terry Hanna
Woolwich, Maine

Paula Harvard
Woolwich, Maine
Comment: Fully behind this...far too much packaging and not enough innovation.

Guy Marsden
Woolwich, Maine
Comment: I am shocked and embarrassed that Maine cannot get about 40% recycling. We need to get this done!

Robert McHugh-Westfall
Woolwich, Maine

Jennifer Oddleifson
Woolwich, Maine
Comment: Needs to happen!

Ruth Rogers
Woolwich, Maine

Violet Wood
Woolwich, Maine

Heather Abbott
Yarmouth, Maine

Anne Ball
Yarmouth, Maine

Arthur Bell
Yarmouth, Maine

Bill Carter
Yarmouth, Maine

Haley Doan
Yarmouth, Maine

Margot Downs
Yarmouth, Maine

Susan Ely
Yarmouth, Maine

Maya F
Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: I entirely support EPR, and producers taking responsibility for their plastic waste, instead of consumers. We can't help the fact that everything we buy is wrapped in plastic! The problem needs to stop at it's source. Yay for Maine in taking a lead to solve the plastic problem!

Greg Field
Yarmouth, Maine

Sarah Gleason
Yarmouth, Maine

Scott Hanson
Yarmouth, Maine

Landis Hudson
Yarmouth, Maine

Randy Ketchen
Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: if were producing it, we need to be able to recycle it !

Amanda Lachance
Yarmouth, Maine

Jason Lachance
Yarmouth, Maine

Will Lachance
Yarmouth, Maine

Donald Lennon
Yarmouth, Maine

Andrew Mazer
Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: This bill sounds like a commonsense approach to help mitigate the cost of recycling packaging material.

Roger Nadeau
Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: It is simply unbelievable that recycling is not increasing! Support companies who do recycling AND STOP protecting and supporting Big Oil and Plastics. THIS should be a no brained!! R Nadeau

Isabella Pardales
Yarmouth, Maine

Jaime Stowell
Yarmouth, Maine

Sandra Wachholz
Yarmouth, Maine
Comment: Not fostering recycling will lead to long-term costs, such as toxic materials dumped in improper places. Now more than ever, with oceans teaming with plastic, is the time to enhance rather than cut back on recycling.

Gary Adamowicz
York, Maine

Virginia Adamowicz
York, Maine

Hilary Clark
York, Maine

Laura Creagan
York, Maine

Kasi Davies
York, Maine

Janet Drew
York, Maine

Mark Graziano
York, Maine

Dennis Kepner
York, Maine

Susan Kepner
York, Maine
Comment: We must reduce and reuse, as well as recycle. They all should be a part of the system to use less plastics. NOW is NOT the time to stop recycling. Perhaps if corporations had to bear some of the burden, they would produce less plastics!!

Alice Larrea
York, Maine

Carol Libby
York, Maine

Carrie Mayo
York, Maine

Edward McAbee
York, Maine
Comment: Business as usual is not a valid concept

Alan McDonald
York, Maine

David Patton
York, Maine

Tarin Quinn
York, Maine

Bill Schenck
York, Maine

William Schenck
York, Maine
Comment: Corporations really do make it difficult for us to recycle. None of those numbers mean anything. Those numbers are just to make us feel that we are protecting the environment. What they are doing is criminal. Do those people not have children and/or grandchildren?

Victoria Simon
York, Maine

Sally Sulloway
York, Maine
Comment: Thanks for all this info.

Joseph Yauch
York, Maine

James Kences
York Harbor, Maine
Comment: An urgent issue of importance at many levels.. . .

Beth Bard
Maine

Dina Blodgett
Maine

Taylor Hickey
Maine

Tess McNally
Maine
Comment: New materials are being made, and we need to step up to make sure that we can process them.

Margie Puglisi
Maine
Comment: Our local community stopped its recycling program due to budget constraints. Its so upsetting that we can no longer participate in this critical environmental endeavor.