

April 18, 2019

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casella
waste systems, Inc.

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1431 "Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs"

Dear Senator Carson, Representative Tucker, and Committee members:

We have reviewed the above-mentioned bill and write today to express our interest to participate in any stakeholder processes that may result if the bill is passed.

Casella understands that the goal of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging would be to reduce the burden of waste and recycling costs on Maine municipalities while simultaneously incentivizing producers of packaging to design their products with recycling in mind. These are goals that we clearly share.

Over the years, Casella has invested in the collection and processing infrastructure for Maine's recyclables. Our Zero-Sort Recycling facility in Lewiston serves more than 60 municipalities and 3,000 businesses. Within the state, we process around 125,000 tons of standard recyclables each year. We don't control what products get made, or which products get bought, or whether individuals choose to recycle packaging they have purchased, but we are the recipients of the products when they are discarded, and we are constantly adapting our business in response to society's needs.

We believe that a well-crafted EPR program could benefit Maine's municipal recycling programs, provided that it 1) is sufficiently nimble, 2) is developed with the active participation of recycling collectors and processors, and 3) retains the flexibility to evolve and respond along with shifts in markets, technologies, and consumer needs.

With these factors in mind, we respectfully request to participate as a stakeholder in future discussions around EPR for packaging in Maine.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald Meagher
Manager of Planning and Development
Casella Waste Systems in Maine