



Comments in support of LD 479: An Act to Facilitate Expansion of the State's Recycling Efforts Under the Beverage Container Redemption Program

Written Testimony provided by Victor Horton, Executive Director of MRRA

The Maine Resource Recovery Association ("MRRA") is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting professional and sustainable materials management in Maine. Established in 1984, MRRA serves over 160 municipalities through its work to provide ongoing education on waste regulations, evolving waste streams, and best practices. We also assist in operating 60 transfer stations and recycling centers and help members find markets for recyclable materials, reinforcing Maine's commitment to resource recovery.

LD 479 seems like a worthwhile and interesting endeavor. Adding non beverage containers to the bottle bill collection system could possibly increase the recycling of those containers.

It also allows producers of the covered jars to have an alternative collection system once Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging gets into full swing.

Glass jars, although easily recycled come with challenges. For example we have had entire loads rejected for ceramic, window glass, and casserole dishes being inadvertently mixed in with the pure clear glass.

If they were added in a controlled way, it likely would keep the stream clean enough for the end users of the glass.

MRRA offers our help if needed for the DEP to perform this study or survey.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to consider passage of LD 479.

Victor Horton