

Lisa Belanger  
North Yarmouth  
LD 1423

To: Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources

From: Lisa Belanger, North Yarmouth resident and member of the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee

Subject: Opposition to LD 1423, "An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging"

Date: 4/21/25

My name is Lisa Belanger and I am testifying in opposition to LD 1423. To say that I am annoyed with this proposed legislation is a bit of an understatement. The good people of Maine have been waiting seven years for this law to take effect after you (the Maine legislature), wisely made Maine a recognized leader on environmental protections and we became the first state in the nation to pass EPR into law.

Subsequently, five more states (almost six), now have EPR packaging laws. There has been seven years of steady and deliberate work to craft the rules and regulations for Maine's EPR Program involving municipalities, legislators, environmental experts, producers and members of the public such as myself. Through this thoughtful input, Maine's EPR Program has been designed to be fair and flexible and is now ready to go. Why are we trying to fix something that isn't broken? Although it sounds like LD 1423 seeks to improve the EPR law and foster more recycling, it actually does just the opposite. This bill is nothing more than a means to create more loopholes, exemptions and delays that benefit the large corporations that generate the most packaging waste.

Maine taxpayers and municipalities should not bear the burden of funding the disposal of packaging waste as we have been doing for many, many years. Please join me in honoring the hard work that gave us Maine's EPR Program by voting in opposition to this thinly veiled attempt by large businesses and corporations to avoid responsibility for the waste that they produce.

Thank-you,

Lisa Belanger, North Yarmouth resident