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LD 1423

I live in Vienna, Maine, where the cost of curbside pick-up of trash and recycling is a significant line item in our annual budget. We try to recycle as much as we can, but the rules about what can and can't be recycled is very confusing. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law, which was passed in 2021, was designed to make big corporations help cover the cost of recycling the packaging they produce and to provide more clarity about how to recycle it. As a result of this excellent law, we were expecting to start receiving reimbursement in 2027, and now LD 1423, inaccurately titled "An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging," which aims to repeal critical elements of the EPR for Packaging Law, is going to dump the cost right back on us. EPR programs have been successful in much of the world, resulting in cost savings and greater clarity about recycling for taxpayers, and have cost the big corporations less than 1% of their revenue to implement.

LD 1423 will delay implementation and upend years of planning by towns and state agencies, exempt large corporations from paying their fair share, shifting the burden to Maine's communities and small businesses, and strip away transparency and oversight, giving industry control over how success is defined and measured. This bill is one more example of multi-billion dollar corporations trying to shirk responsibility and shift costs onto the backs of regular people who cannot afford it. Please oppose this hand-out to big business!