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LD 1423

I writing in opposition to LD 1423.

On July 12, 2021, Maine became the first state in the US to pass an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law and in December of 24 the Maine Board of Environmental Protection finalized the rules for this program. It requires large corporations and manufacturers to help pay for the cost of recycling their packaging, much of it plastic.

EPR programs differ from traditional recycling programs, which are run and funded by municipal governments. Instead, EPR shifts the costs of dealing with difficult types of waste from town governments (already stretched thin), to manufacturers and corporations, that have control over the safety and recyclability of the products they make and sell.

Yet here it is less than 4 months after the rules have been finalized and efforts are underway to gut this new law. The proposed law, LD 1423, "An Act to Improve Recycling" would delay implantation of the new rules, exempt large corporations from paying their share of the costs, and strip away transparency and oversight by giving industry control over how success is defined and measured. And we haven't even had a chance to test out the rules for this program!

Let's keep Maine a leader in recycling and sustainability.

Please oppose LD 1423.