

Linda Stathoplos
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LD 1423

I oppose LD 1423, “An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging.” The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law, which Maine passed in 2021, holds corporations that produce packaging waste responsible for the disposal expenses borne by Maine’s municipal recycling and waste disposal programs. The originator (polluter) pays for the downstream costs of packaging. This is fairer than expecting Maine taxpayers to foot the bill, and encourages packaging manufacturers to reduce waste. I do not agree that we should, as stated in the LD 1423 bill summary line 3, “exclude certain commercial, cosmetic” product packaging producers from complying with the existing requirements of the EPR law. LD 1423 also weakens the EPR transparency and oversight. This is not an adjustment to the EPR bill that will benefit Mainers.