



### **Testimony of Sam Tracy Against LD 1564**

**“An Act to Delay Implementation of Recent Changes to Maine's Beverage Container Redemption Law”**

**April 22, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Sam Tracy, and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs & Business Development at CLYNK. I am submitting this testimony against LD 1564.

CLYNK is a circularity solutions provider with active and successful bag-drop redemption operations in Maine since 2005. We process about 25% of the containers redeemed in Maine, using our network of 50+ bag-drop stations and two centralized processing facilities in Biddeford and Oakland. From our national headquarters in South Portland, we also manage operations in New York and Connecticut, and have started up successful bag-drop programs in Oregon and Iowa. In Maine, we have over 110 full-time employees working in accounting, information technology, transportation, and more.

Postponing dates as proposed in LD 1564 is unnecessary and further delays the implementation of the rules and formation of the new cooperative. In the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, the Committee unanimously passed LD 1909, “An Act to Modernize Maine's Beverage Container Redemption Law.” This bill utilized a consensus-based discussion between stakeholders to determine the appropriate pathway following an increased handling fee to develop additional cost savings through new rules managed by MaineDEP.

Delaying implementation in statute by one year will cost the system additional money and increase the timeline for compliance with the goals to improve Maine’s recycling. As a reminder, LD 1909 outlined the recycling rates: 75% by January 1, 2027; 80% by January 1, 2032; and 85% by January 1, 2037. We understand the inclination to move dates as parties work to develop the Cooperative and work with regulators to ensure the rules are adjusted to market practices, but we feel this is unnecessary.

MaineDEP is preparing for the second evolution of conceptual rules, which the stakeholders will review before moving into formal rulemaking. We respectfully encourage the Committee to reject this bill and thank each member for considering our comments.