

Mayor and Council Offices

Mark Dion

Mayor

April 22, 2025



Testimony of Mayor of the City of Portland, Mark Dion

Before

Environment and Natural Resources Committee

In Opposition to

LD 1423, An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging

April 22, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I write on behalf of the City of Portland in strong opposition to LD 1423, which would harm municipal budgets by delaying the implementation of Maine's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law. Municipalities across Maine have supported EPR because it shifts some of the burden for funding waste management and recycling from local taxpayers to the companies that produce and distribute packaging materials. This frees up local funding for essential services while incentivizing consumer products companies to design their packaging to be recycled or reused, which reduces overall waste volumes. Managing waste and recycling is a significant cost center for every municipality in Maine including Portland. We have seen dramatic increases in the cost of collection, disposal, and recycling in recent years and these costs will continue to go up. Our longer term budgeting anticipates reimbursement for eligible waste collection and recycling costs to help offset these increases and free up funding for other critical services. Delaying these reimbursements will make future budget decisions even more challenging.

It has taken several years of public process to get EPR to the finish line. Stakeholders including municipal leaders, legislators, environmental experts, and producers have had ample opportunity to influence the program during a rigorous and lengthy rule making process. The program is ready to launch next year and local governments need the financial assistance it will provide to help us cover the growing costs of waste management.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dion", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Mark Dion
Mayor
City of Portland, Maine