

Good afternoon Representative Doudera, Senator Tepler and the members on the Joint Standing Committee of the Environment and Natural Resources . My name is S. Paige Zeigler, I am a resident of Montville and I am here in strong opposition to LD 1432 , **An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging**

Presently, I am the Chair of the Board of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center consisting of 8 towns in center rural Waldo County. I have been on the board for 10 years. Previously, I spent 8 years as a Representative in the Maine State House representing District 96 and District 40. Of those years I spent 6 years on the ENR committee and 4 years on the EUT committee. I am a cosponsor of the original EPR bill.

First of all I would like to say that the title of this bill is a misnomer attempting to confuse its purpose. This bill's only purpose is to weaken the ability of reducing solid waste and also to reduce the amount of recycling possible. LD 1423 is a cynical Hale Mary pass to stop the EPR bill from being enacted as written. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has been working on the implementation of the EPR for years and has very workable regulations. This bill is full of the same arguments we first heard when the EPR bill was presented. Analogous laws have passed in provinces of Canada and in Europe and manufacturers have responded with new packaging. The sky didn't fall for those manufacturers.

The EPR, as originally written, without all the carve outs in this bill would reduce the amount of tipping fees that towns pay, and thus save Maine property tax payers. So as legislators, do you want to save your constituents' taxes and reduce solid waste and expansion of land fills? Your choice on who and what is important.