



April 22, 2025

Senator Denise Tepler, Chair
Representative Victoria Doudera, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
10 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1423: An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

My name is Craig Felner, I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Infant Nutrition Council of America. INCA represents several of the leading domestic manufacturers of infant formula and toddler nutritional drinks. For more than 50 years, INCA has advocated for optimal infant health and the critical role of infant nutrition, supported families in their feeding decisions, and provided evidence-based information to educate stakeholders on appropriate infant feeding options.

I am testifying today in support of LD 1423. Specifically, INCA applauds the inclusion, similar to other states like California, Oregon and Colorado, of language that would exempt infant formula products.

Infant formula products must meet unique nutrition requirements, supporting life and maintaining growth and development for infants. Infant formula is the only safe, science-supported nourishment for infants who are not exclusively breastfed. It is for this reason that infant formula is provided free of charge through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) that serves low-income populations.

Because infant formula provides supplemental or sole source nutrition for a vulnerable population it is imperative that the products are manufactured under quality-controlled conditions and meet strict specifications, to ensure product safety and nutrition integrity. Specifically, infant formula packaging must meet several unique requirements:

- Be able to maintain each product's full spectrum of nutrients at the necessary levels for the entire shelf life of the product

- Withstand the rigors of required manufacturing processes which can include high temperature and high pressure for an extended time period, necessitating a multi-layer container that can limit the container's recyclability.

In addition, infant formula is one of the most highly regulated foods and has its own set of unique FDA manufacturing, packaging, and labeling requirements. The current state of science in FDA-approved food packaging limits the types of packaging that can be used to meet infant formula's unique packaging requirements.

We appreciate the recognition of these unique circumstances with infant formula. Exempting infant formula from the Stewardship Program for Packaging will help ensure families and caregivers in the state are able to continue to access the infant formula products they need to feed their infants.

INCA urges approval of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.