Francis Moulton Ashland LD 1423

As a member of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, I support strengthening Maine's existing Extended Producer Responsibility laws, not weakening or delaying them. Packaging, particularly of plastic or plastic blends, is a recurring eyesore and its' degradation in the environment has many well-documented negative effects on both ecosystem and human health. EPR laws in over 40 jurisdictions worldwide have had a beneficial effect for many years now, in some cases (Belgium; our neighbor Quebec) at zero cost to taxpayers, with greater recycling collections rates than here in Maine, which are below the target of 50% set way back in 1989. Larger corporations have sufficient wealth to shoulder the burden of accepting responsibility for the outcome of their production and distribution, rather than shifting that burden onto smaller businesses and municipalities. Increased transparency in reporting will assist our efforts. Please do the right thing.