



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Opposition to:  
LD 1423: An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging**

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Room 216, Cross Building  
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland, and executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 850 individual members and nearly 70 organizations across the state. MPHA works to optimize the health of people and places in Maine through advocacy, education, partnerships, and public health workforce development. We are not tied to a national agenda, which means we are responsive to the needs of Maine's communities, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs are a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial and/or physical – for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.<sup>1</sup> EPR programs encourage product design changes that minimize negative impacts on human and environmental health.

MPHA opposes LD 1423: "An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging," which would create multiple product exemptions and change key definitions in Maine's current program, opening the door for loopholes and reducing transparency.

Maine has been a national leader in holding manufacturers accountable for packaging waste. We should be identifying ways to strengthen, as opposed to weaken, this important public health program. This legislation would increase municipalities' waste management burden, discourage better stewardship of packaging, and harm environmental and human health. Therefore, we respectfully ask you to vote LD 1423 "Ought Not to Pass." Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 2019. [Extended Producer Responsibility](#).