



Testimony in Opposition to LD 1564
*An Act to Delay Implementation of Recent Changes to Maine's Beverage
Container Redemption Law*
Sarah Nichols, on behalf of the Maine Redemption Center Association
April 22, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the committee on environment and natural resources, my name is Sarah Nichols and I am here on behalf of the nine members of the Maine Redemption Center Association (MRCA) to speak in opposition LD 1564.

Maine's redemption centers are the backbone of the Bottle Bill—and the success of this program depends on their ability to operate efficiently and sustainably. When redemption centers succeed, the program succeeds.

We are grateful to this Committee for recognizing the pressures facing our business and for advancing policies that help keep us afloat. That's why we must respectfully oppose the proposed one-year delay in LD 1564, especially the provision on line 30, page 3, which would postpone reimbursement for plastic bags used to collect containers.

Redemption centers across Maine are spending thousands of dollars per year just on the plastic bags required to sort and store returned containers to the producers. Bags range from \$0.33-\$0.42 each, come in rolls of 100 or 200 and the costs add up fast. Depending on the size of the redemption center and the time of year, this can be a monthly expense of \$200-\$800+ per location.

These are real, ongoing costs that could easily be reimbursed at the time of container pick-up. The bags are authorized to be paid for through the pool of unclaimed deposits held by the cooperative, which the Initiators of Deposits (IoD's) are already accumulating. There's no logistical reason to delay this critical financial support for another year.

We urge the Committee to let the program roll-out as planned and allow redemption centers to receive the financial relief that they need and deserve.

Thank you again for your commitment to the Bottle Bill and to the small businesses that make it work. I'd be happy to answer any questions.