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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY OF
BRIAN BENESKI, SUPERVISOR, RECYCLING PROGRAMS
DIVISION OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT
BUREAU OF REMEDIATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SPEAKING IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 1582
AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF BEVERAGES IN
PLASTIC CONTAINERS

SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE CLOUTIER

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE OF HEARING:

APRIL 22, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee, my name is
Brian Beneski and I am the Supervisor of Recycling programs, within the Division of

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Materials Management, in the Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management, at the Department of Environmental Protection, speaking in opposition to L.D. 1582.

This bill proposes to add the definition of “closure device” to Maine’s Beverage Container Redemption Program framework law (Title 38, Chapter 33). This bill would legitimize the inclusion of non-recyclable containers in Maine’s Beverage Container Redemption Program. Multi-material containers of this type are not recyclable; they contain too much metal from the non-removable lid/closure device to be recycled with plastic containers and too much plastic from the container itself to be recycled as metal. This would result in additional sorts at the redemption center, since these types of containers would require a separate material sort, then additionally they would need to be sorted by size and deposit amount, as necessary.

Since these containers are non-recyclable, they would go through the bottle redemption system from consumer to redemption center to pick-up agent and ultimately be disposed of which is contrary to the intent of the law which is “...to create incentives for the manufacturers, distributors, dealers and consumers of beverage containers to reuse or *recycle* [emphasis added] beverage containers...”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am available to answer questions of the Committee, both now and at work session.