



Testimony of Matthew Marks Against LD 1582

“An Act to Clarify the Prohibition on the Sale of Beverages in Plastic Containers”

April 22, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Matt Marks, and I’m a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs, speaking today on behalf of my client Clynk. I am submitting this testimony against LD 1582, as we understand the intent.

CLYNK is a circularity solutions provider with active and successful bag-drop redemption operations in Maine since 2005. We process about 25% of the containers redeemed in Maine, using our network of 50+ bag-drop stations and two centralized processing facilities in Biddeford and Oakland. CLYNK employs over 110 people.

It is our understanding this bill would allow for the sale of containers made from blended materials, such as plastics and aluminum. It’s well known the cocktail brand BuzzBalls is packaged this way. These containers are not commercially recyclable without significant manipulation and contaminate the recycling stream. We recommend that if the Committee would like to offer these products on the market, they eliminate them from the redemption program and move them into the extended producer responsibility program.

Blended containers create contamination in the recycling bale process. If they were part of the redemption program, they would have to be separated and sorted by hand, like Nips, and placed in giant sacks for pickup rather than baling. Because they are often made into alternative shapes, like spherical containers, they do not move well through sorting machines. This process runs counter to Maine’s attempt to streamline the redemption program and reduce sorting as outline in LD 1909 that was signed into law in the 131st legislature.

Ideally, Maine would continue to ban products that do not conform to industry standards and reduce recycling efforts. But should these products become available in Maine, they should be kept out of redemption and fall under Maine’s EPR regulations instead so that they don’t contaminate easily recyclable materials.

We strongly encourage the Committee to evaluate the potential environmental and financial risks associated with products described in this bill and vote against LD 1582 or exempt from redemption. I am happy to answer any questions.