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Testimony on
L.D. 1423, “An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging”

Presented by
Representative Paul R. Flynn
District 63

Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am State Representative Paul R. Flynn, and I represent the citizens of District 63, which consists of Albion, Freedom, Unity Township, and a portion of Winslow. I am here today to testify in support of L.D. 1423, “*An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging.*”

This past summer, I had the opportunity to visit Elanco Animal Health, a long-standing employer in Winslow and an integral part of our local economy. Elanco provides 120 direct jobs in our community and they are a key example of the type of business that this legislation seeks to support.

Elanco produces animal health products essential to the care of pets and livestock. These products are not only vital to animal welfare, but also play a critical role in food safety and public health. Due to their importance, Elanco’s products are subject to strict federal oversight. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency each regulate different categories of these products, setting comprehensive packaging and labeling requirements that companies, such as Elanco, must follow. As a result, producers cannot adjust packaging to meet state-specific mandates, even if they want to.

L.D. 1423 fills an important gap in Maine’s current extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework by exempting these federally regulated products from requirements they are structurally unable to meet. Without this exemption, companies, like Elanco, could face financial penalties and increased costs. Again, not due to a lack of willingness to comply, but because federal law leaves them no flexibility. Notably, other states with similar EPR laws have recognized this conflict and provided comparable exemptions to what L.D. 1423 is seeking.

The bill also includes a thoughtful provision to allow greater flexibility in how the fee schedule is set. Ensuring that fees are fair and proportionate is essential to the program’s credibility and long-term success.

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In short, L.D. 1423 recognizes the realities faced by federally regulated industries and offers a path forward that is fair without harming Maine businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support L.D. 1423.