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Senator Denise Tepler, Chair  
Representative Victoria Doudera, Chair  
Environment and Natural Resources Committee

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**Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1423: An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Maria Cahill, Senior Director Government Affairs for Abbott. Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of LD 1423.

Abbott is a global healthcare leader that helps people live more fully at all stages of life. Our portfolio of life-changing technologies spans the spectrum of healthcare, with leading businesses and products in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic medicines. Our products are accessible to people in 160 countries. We have two manufacturing facilities in Maine, located in Scarborough and Westbrook and also two research and development sites in South Portland and Scarborough. We currently employ approximately 950 people at these facilities.

In supporting LD 1423, I am focusing my comments on the exemptions to the definition of "packaging material" found in subsection (6), most notably medical devices, infant formula, medical food and oral nutritional supplements used as sole source nutrition for patients with specified disease states. These exemptions have been granted in each jurisdiction that has previously passed an EPR law: CO, CA, OR, MN and most recently MD. WA is on the cusp of sending their bill to the Governor and it also includes these exemptions.

Selection of packaging materials is an important consideration for specialized products. The multilayer containers used today must withstand processing and heat treatment conditions while maintaining product integrity and nutrition levels throughout product shelf life. Multilayer containers are not part of the closed-loop recycling processes and are limited in ability to use post-consumer recycle (PCR) content because of material instability, contaminant migration risk, and lack of approval for safe food contact use.

Other jurisdictions have recognized the uniqueness of the packaging qualities of these products and, for the sake of access for these vulnerable populations, have exempted them from their EPR programs. We