



Maine Beverage Distributors Association

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April 23, 2025

LD 1423 An Act To Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging.

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources, my name is Cheryl Timberlake. I am a resident of Mt. Vernon and serve as the Executive VP for the Maine Beverage Distributors Association, whose members are local family-owned independent distributors that provide beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages to retailers from every region of the state.

MBDA is supporting LD 1423 An Act To Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging. We want to thank Sen. Baldacci.

As the committee knows, a majority of our products are already included in recycling program for the bottle bill. Aside from the specific beverage containers, there are other packaging elements that are necessary for the transportation of these commodities.

Consider the packaging required for the safe delivery of a six pack of long-neck beer bottles or a case of fine wine. These glass products need packaging that would be included in the steward program.

The question we would ask is who is responsible for compliance with the law.

The chain of custody for beverages is threefold:

Suppliers/manufacturers sell their products to Maine based distributors who deliver these beverages to licensed retailers who sell them to adult consumers. In our world there are three business to business transactions that occur to facilitate the beverage sale to the consumer.

We ask that the 'Consumer' definition should not include industrial and commercial entities; ensuring it does not include Business to Business packaging.

To ensure uniformity, Maine should align its EPR for Packaging law with other states like CO, OR, MN, CA, and MD. Suppliers with a multi-state footprint will not have a unique set of rules and compliance requirements for specific to Maine.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.