



Town of Brunswick, Maine

INCORPORATED 1739

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April 23, 2025

Testimony in Opposition of LD 1423 An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Chrissy Adamowicz, and I'm testifying in opposition of LD 1423 on behalf of the Town of Brunswick.

The Town of Brunswick supported the passage of Maine's current Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging law (MRS Title 38 § 2146) because it will bring stability and consistency to our recycling program. Towns need this stability and have been waiting many years for Maine's EPR law to take effect.

As a municipality, we cannot control the amount and type of packaging that is available in our community, making it impossible to control costs to recycle those materials. Our EPR law puts the cost of recycling on the producers who make and have control over their packaging, and that helps towns get away from paying for something we can't control. This basic principle is why we don't support sweeping exemptions like the ones proposed in LD 1423—materials that are exempted will hurt our recycling programs and put more costs onto businesses who are not exempted. Packaging that has special circumstances should be managed through carefully planned fee structures.

The experts at the Department of Environmental Protection have carried out a long and thorough rulemaking process to make sure that our EPR program is fair and effective. Our law will help municipalities reduce the burden on taxpayers and it offers the right exemptions that protect our small businesses.

The Town of Brunswick opposes LD 1423 because it will hurt our taxpayers by delaying and diluting the relief that our current EPR law will bring to municipal recycling programs. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Adamowicz, Economic and Community Development Project Manager

Cc Julia Henze, Town Manager