



MAILING  
18 Trim Street  
Camden, ME 04843

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

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

Dear Chairwoman Doudera, Chairwoman Tepler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Alexandra Doudera and I am a resident of Camden, District 41. I am passionate about education, environmental stewardship, and leading by example. As the Founder and Executive Director of Saltwater Classroom, a non-profit focused on ocean education, I think every day about future generations and the kind of world we are leaving for them.

Maine's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging is a model for the nation. It is bold, necessary, and rooted in accountability. Producers should bear responsibility for the waste — often the unnecessary waste — that they create, not households, communities, nor taxpayers. LD 1423, despite its name, does not “improve” the program, it weakens it. This bill introduces language that opens the door to broad exemptions, unwarranted delays, and industry-driven loopholes. We know we're on the right track when pressure shows up late in the game trying to undercut progress.

Understanding the complexity of this topic and the need to balance diverse interests within Maine, I am in support of the amendment to this bill proposed on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Without this proposed amendment, LD 1423 does not protect Maine communities or our environment, it protects polluters.

I urge you to prioritize the integrity of Maine's first-in-the-nation EPR law and continue setting an example for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Doudera  
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