



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Allison Hepler

417 Montsweag Rd.

Woolwich, ME 04579

Phone: (207) 319-4396

Allison.Hepler@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. Allison Hepler in opposition to
**LD 1423, An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship
Program for Packaging**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I am Allison Hepler and I represent the towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich. I am here today to speak about my concerns with **LD 1423, An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging**.

When I first learned about extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging – seven years ago – I was cautiously optimistic because I didn't dare believe that something like this was even possible – that there could be a way to help municipalities manage and dispose of the packaging materials that residents are saddled with.

This law is the result of consensus, hard work, and a commitment to a fair process.

As a longtime selectperson in a small town, as the law was developed, I knew exactly how this could help our taxpayers and help our bottom line. In Woolwich, the collection of our solid waste and our recycling is a very large portion of our budget, second only to our snow plowing budget. In an EPR system, those who produce our packaging bear the cost of disposing of it, whether by recycling or by other means. It seems like a win-win for manufacturers and our residents. The packaging people are incentivized to reduce packaging materials, and the reduction of packaging materials reduces the tipping fees for our residents.

Should this bill pass, all of the hard work in crafting the current statute and all of those benefits for municipalities would be put on hold, and it's not clear to me for how long. This effort has been ongoing for several years and from my perch, I see no reasonable reason for further delay, which would mean shifting the cost burden back onto our towns and our taxpayers.

Please do not support LD 1423. Thank you for your time.