



**RETAIL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
MAINE**  
Voice of Maine Retail

45 Melville Street, Suite 1  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone: 207.623.1149  
[www.retailmaine.org](http://www.retailmaine.org)

April 26, 2021

Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair  
Representative Ralph Tucker, Chair  
Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 1208, An Act To Amend the State's Electronic Waste Recycling Law**

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1208.

Maine was the first state in the nation to pass an e-waste law in 2004, and a number of other states followed with similar programs. However, in its 17 year existence, it has not undergone a significant examination of its efficiency and cost. Over the past couple of years, our members who participate in Maine's e-waste laws have told us Maine and Hawaii have the highest program costs of all the participating states. Hawaii's costs are understandable as component materials end up being shipping back to the mainland for additional processing and recycling. However, Maine's program remains the outlier.

LD 1208 is not a repeal of Maine's e-waste law. Instead, it is a proposal to examine the existing program, and make suggested changes that can lead to a more efficient and cost-effective system. I have read the posted testimony of the Maine DEP and Natural Resources Council of Maine. Both testimonies note that Maine DEP is planning to undergo rulemaking to address some of the concerns that have been raised. We appreciate that effort, but we also acknowledge that the Maine DEP is very busy and has limited resources. LD 1208 was submitted to make sure these discussions and efforts happen. We would appreciate you keeping LD 1208 viable until the rulemaking is complete. Without this vehicle, Maine's e-waste issues could remain unresolved until 2023 at the earliest.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE  
President and CEO