

Town of Blue Hill, Maine

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INCORPORATED JAN. 30, 1789

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Testimony in Support of LD 1541

An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money

Shawna Ambrose, Town Administrator, Blue Hill

May, 10 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Shawna Ambrose and I am the Town Administrator for the Town of Blue Hill, Maine. I appreciate this opportunity to speak to you in support of LD 1541 and against LD 1471.

I support LD 1541 because:

Residents of Blue Hill are great recyclers and want to do the right thing for the environment, but they are confused and frustrated because the large amount of wasteful packaging often can't be recycled.

Our taxpayers have been shouldering the cost of packaging waste for decades. Meanwhile there are few practical ways for them to reduce that waste on our store shelves.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging will give municipalities the financial support they need to keep and expand recycling programs—no more having to choose between raising taxes or cutting recycling. EPR for Packaging creates an incentive for corporations to help make recycling simpler by improving the design and recyclability of their packaging.

In Canada, the provinces with EPR for Packaging, like our neighbor Quebec, were able to continue collection services overall despite the pandemic and disruptions in global recycling markets while those without EPR for Packaging experienced major disruptions to their recycling systems.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Shawna Ambrose

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Town Administrator

Blue Hill, Maine