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I am Maya Faulstich, a student at Harrison Middle School. I am testifying in support of LD1541, An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money. As a young adult, I know that the decisions we make today will affect the life we live tomorrow. It is up to us to determine what that world looks like. I want to live in a world where I don't have to constantly worry about all the trash I consume, and enjoy the place I know to be Maine. Our packaging problem scares me; plastic ends up in the environment, landfills, and incinerators, and very little is recycled. I believe this bill can help fix that, and is a step in the right direction.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is important because the disposal of packaging can cost millions to billions of dollars every year to manage. Most of us don't think about who pays for the disposal of the packaging we buy, but the truth is, it's in our taxes. Extended Producer Responsibility will help shift those costs to the big producers who sell us the packaging without affecting Maine's beloved small businesses.

We've been dumping our money into a broken recycling system, but this bill can help fix it. In other places, EPR has increased recycling rates and has saved hundreds of dollars spent on litter cleanup. Why can't it do the same in Maine?

If we want to start making decisions that will have a positive impact on both the environment and our wallets, passing this bill is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time.