



TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION
*For the Town of Falmouth to Support LD 2104, an Extended Producer
Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Law*

- WHEREAS,** packaging, which includes plastic, metal, glass and cardboard, constitutes approximately 30-40% of the materials managed by weight in Maine’s municipal waste management programs. However, producers are not designing packaging that can be profitably recycled; and
- WHEREAS,** global recycling markets have experienced recent changes resulting in local challenges to process recyclable materials in feasible ways and exposure of flaws in how recycling has been managed. Taxpayers currently pay 100% of the cost and an estimated \$17 million each year to manage these materials through increasingly expensive disposable and recycling options and municipalities are also responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and
- WHEREAS,** the Maine Legislature passed LD 1431, a Resolve to Support Municipal Recycling Programs, in 2019, which aims to develop legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility law for packaging in the State; and,
- WHEREAS,** stakeholders are working together using the framework of LD 1431, to implement An Act to Support and Increase the Recycling of Packaging, LD 2104, which recognizes that there are more effective, more sustainable and more equitable ways of incentivizing producers to make packaged material that is easily recyclable; and
- WHEREAS,** producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packing through extended producer reforms in other parts of the world, including all European Union member states and five provinces in Canada; and, as a result, have greatly increased recycling rates, expanded infrastructure investment, created jobs, and reduced taxpayer costs; and
- WHEREAS,** through an extended producer responsibility law, producers of packaging materials would have a direct economic incentive to produce less-wasteful packaging that can easily and profitably be managed by municipal recycling programs, and
- WHEREAS,** implementation of a statewide Extended Producer Responsibility Program for packaging wastes would ensure that municipalities will be protected from unbalanced costs when global recycling markets are unfavorable, and taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling and the packaging manufacturers will be provided a more equitable way to distribute costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH, ASSEMBLED THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH 2020, THAT:

The Falmouth Town Council does hereby agree to the following:

Resolution No 97-2020

1. The Town of Falmouth supports LD 2104, an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging law as endorsed by the Maine Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431).

Attest: _____
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Date: _____

Ashley Krulik
Falmouth

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Ashley Krulik and I am the Sustainability Coordinator for the Town of Falmouth. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong support of LD 1541. The language is very similar to LD 2104, which was voted majority ought-to-pass by this Committee in the 129th Legislature but unfortunately did not receive a full vote by the 129th House and Senate due to the Covid-19 shutdown.

In my role, I oversee Sustainability initiatives for Falmouth, Maine - balancing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic vitality to meet the Town's present needs, while insuring the ability of future generations to thrive. These initiatives are centered around carbon emission reducing goals - including transitioning to renewable energy, reducing waste, and supporting more efficient infrastructure. Packaging plays a huge role in the waste cycle and total global emissions. Solving this issue falls on municipalities and individuals who understand the importance of waste reduction, yet we have no control over the amount of materials used in packaging production. We need to place more responsibility on the manufacturers who produce this packaging by shifting the cost of end-of life recycling to the manufacturers themselves. Attached is a resolution adopted by the Falmouth Town Council in 2020 in support of LD 2104. We hope that you will strongly consider supporting this bill to extend packaging responsibility to the manufacturers to support a better waste system and lower carbon emissions.