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*Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting*  
**LD 1541, An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs  
and Save Taxpayer Money**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

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

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1541, “An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money.”

Many of Maine’s cities and towns are doing the right thing for our environment by operating recycling programs at the municipal level. However, some municipalities have had to scale back or cut recycling programs because of cost. The cost of recycling is expensive and volatile, subject to the whims of international policies and politics. We must be looking for new strategies to make recycling more affordable for our communities, while cutting back on the amount of packaging that enters the market in the first place.

Implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy like the one proposed by LD 1541 will have multiple benefits for Maine people and communities, and for our environment. It will help municipalities and the taxpayers in those municipalities save money on their recycling programs, and will incentivize packaging producers to make smarter choices about what they put out to market. It’s a win-win solution that encourages producers to make smarter, more responsible choices.

As the Maine Department of Environmental Protection notes in their 2021 Product Stewardship Report: “An EPR program for packaging can provide incentives for producers to design for recycling, galvanize investment in Maine’s recycling infrastructure, and relieve municipalities of much of the financial burden of dealing with this waste stream.”

EPR for other products and materials is already working in Maine; implementing EPR for packing is the right thing to do for Maine towns, for Maine taxpayers, and for our environment. I thank Rep. Grohoski for bringing this legislation forward, and I thank the committee for its consideration. I hope you will choose to vote ought to pass.

Sincerely,

Chloe Maxmin