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## **Testimony of Representative Stanley Paige Zeigler**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.** Good morning, Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resource committee. My name is Stanley Paige Zeigler, and I represent District 96 consisting of the towns of Belmont, Liberty, Lincolnville, Montville, Morrill, Palermo and Searsmont. I am speaking today to support **LD 1541 An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money**

I am speaking today not as a State Representative, but as the Chair of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center, which is a nonprofit serving the 8 towns of central Waldo County by handling their recycling needs. This center has been opened to the public for 29 years. Towns reduce their waste stream by sending clean items that can be recycled to the Unity facility. Less waste means that the towns and their taxpayers will pay less in tipping fees to trash haulers and will reduce the amount of waste ending up in the landfills. Recycling centers' ability to meet their financial obligations are governed by cycles of the value of their products which are governed by the market needs for those products. In order for recycling to work in the state we need to find a better model that doesn't continue to increase the responsibility on the municipalities to fund the recycling programs. Without a buy-in from manufacturers there is less incentive to develop more recyclable packing materials.

Both LD 1471 and LD 1541 bring up the question of supporting recycling in Maine and the necessity of properly funding it. But I feel that the DEP is the right entity to administer the program and hence I support 1541 and hope you will agree with me.

Thank you for your consideration.