



Office of the  
City Manager

March 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

On March 16, 2021, the City of Waterville City Council discussed and deliberated a request to adopt a resolution to support recycling reform for Maine. The Council had an extended discussion and voted in support of the following: **“In the spirit of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) the City of Waterville supports the concept of the EPR Packaging Law, and we encourage the Legislature to continue working to develop a policy”.**

Sincerely,

Stephen Daly  
City Manager

cc: City Council



1 Common Street, Waterville, ME 04901-6699  
Phone: (207) 680-4204 | Fax: (207) 680-4207  
[mroy@waterville-me.gov](mailto:mroy@waterville-me.gov) | [www.waterville-me.gov](http://www.waterville-me.gov)



CITY OF WATERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 41-2021

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR:

SUPPORT FOR AN EXTENDED PRODUCER  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKAGING (EPR) LAW

~~Whereas, Maine's communities are struggling to maintain, expand, and in some cases are eliminating, recycling programs due to rising costs and difficult to manage materials; and~~

~~Whereas, product 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; and~~

~~Whereas, Maine taxpayers currently unfairly bear 100% of the cost and pay an estimated \$16 million to \$17 million each year to finance the management of this material through fragmented and increasingly expensive disposal or recycling options; and~~

~~Whereas, producers of product packaging have little incentive to minimize wasteful packaging or increase access to recycling; and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging materials; and~~

~~Whereas, producers of product packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging 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;~~

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Waterville City Council, acting as the Municipal Officers, as follows:

We hereby support an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law as endorsed by the Legislature in 2019 through the passage of the Resolve, To Support Municipal Recycling Programs (LD 1431). We believe that this policy will work to make recycling in Maine:

- ~~• **More effective:** 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. Having shared responsibility between those who create the waste and those who manage the waste would foster recycling system improvements and enable greater participation in recycling across Maine;~~
- ~~• **More sustainable:** An EPR law for packaging is an insurance policy for Maine municipalities when global recycling markets are unfavorable. The current approach to recycling is not resilient to fluctuations in the global recycling market. When commodity prices fall unexpectedly, towns and cities may be forced stop or restrict their programs; and~~
- ~~• **More equitable:** Maine's cities, towns, and taxpayers are currently footing the bill for a problem they didn't create. With recycling reform, taxpayers will no longer pay for the cost of recycling since the net costs of recycling would be reimbursed—and the packaging manufacturers that produce less wasteful, more recyclable packaging would pay less than those who do not. This is a much more equitable way to distribute costs.~~

THAT, In the spirit of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility), the City of Waterville supports the concept of the EPR Packaging Law and we encourage the Legislature to continue working to develop a policy.

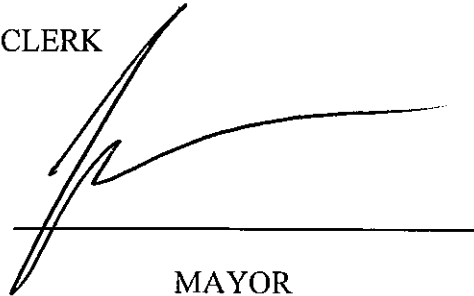
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

February 16 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 Read and Postponed to 3/16/21.

March 16 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 Read and Approved, As Amended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR