



## Save Taxpayers Money and Make Recycling More Effective

### Support: LD 1541

### An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money

#### Sponsored by:

Rep. Nicole Grohoski of Ellsworth

#### Co-sponsored by:

Sen. Bennett of Oxford, Sen. Breen of Cumberland, Sen. Brenner of Cumberland, Sen. Carney of Cumberland, Rep. Hanley of Pittston, Rep. Kessler of South Portland, Rep. Pluecker of Warren, Rep. Skolfield of Weld, and Rep. Ziegler of Montville

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LD 1541 is urgently needed to help Maine communities struggling with rising costs of an ever-growing flood of wasteful packaging materials. There is too much packaging waste, confusion about what can be recycled, and dozens of Maine towns have already been forced to cut back or cancel their recycling programs due to costs.

That's why towns across Maine support LD 1541 to adopt a proven solution called **Extended-Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging**, which is used around the world to save money for cities and towns, increase recycling rates, and spark innovation in packaging design to reduce waste.

#### Maine's Recycling Programs are Struggling to Survive

- Towns have no control over the flood of packaging that needs to be disposed of or recycled, yet they pay all of the monetary costs of recycling programs.
- It costs Maine taxpayers more than \$16 million annually to manage packaging waste; and on average it's more than 60% more expensive to recycle than it is to dispose.

#### A Proven Solution to Reduce Costs for Cities and Towns

- LD 1541 asks big corporations to do their fair share in ensuring long-term viability of recycling by reimbursing towns for the cost of managing wasteful packaging materials—producer-funded recycling programs boast recycling rates double to taxpayer-funded models.
- Maine has already adopted eight other successful EPR programs over the past 20 years to recycle used electronic waste, old paint, and mercury thermostats; there are 33 states with 120 EPR laws across 14 product categories.
- Maine is one of eleven states considering EPR for Packaging legislation.

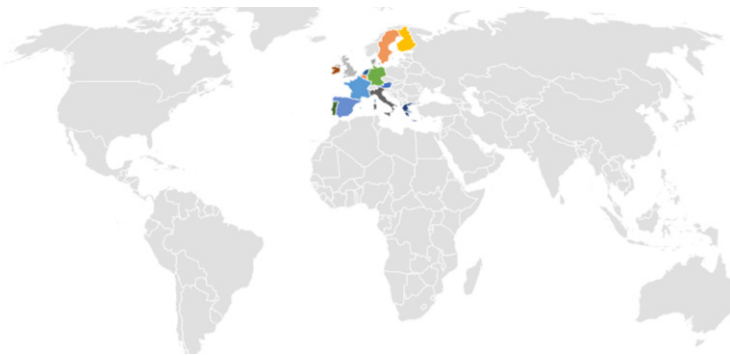
#### Brands Sold in Maine Already Participate in EPR Programs Worldwide

- EPR for Packaging programs already exist in 47 jurisdictions around the world, including the entire European Union and five Canadian provinces (see map).
- Hundreds of brands like Amazon, Best Buy, Kimberly Clark, Hasbro, Home Depot, McDonald's, Mattel, Nabisco, Samsung, Tyson, Unilever, and Wal-Mart are already participating in EPR programs elsewhere. There's no reason they shouldn't do so in Maine, too.

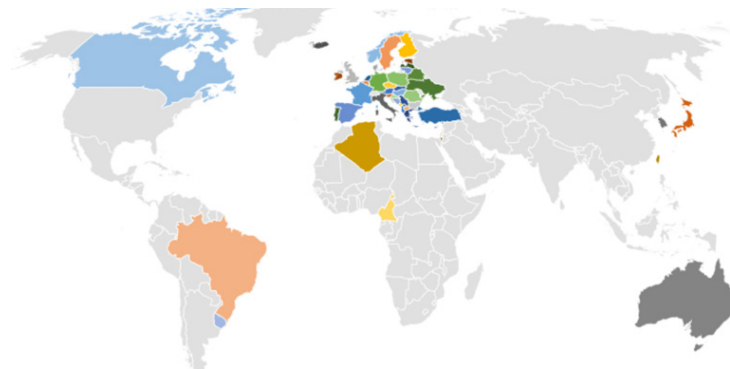
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## Countries with EPR for Packaging Laws:

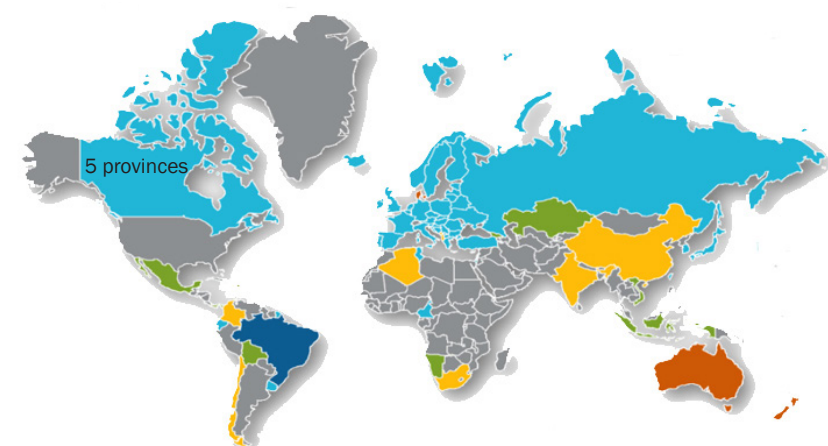
Albania	Canada (5 Provinces)	Germany	Kosovo	Norway	South Africa
Australia	Croatia	Greece	Latvia	Poland	Spain
Austria	Cyprus	Hungary	Liechtenstein	Portugal	Sweden
Belarus	Czech Republic	Iceland	Lithuania	Romania	Tunisia
Belgium	Denmark	Ireland	Macedonia	Russia	Turkey
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Estonia	Italy	Moldova	Republic of Serbia	Ukraine
Brazil	Finland	Japan	Montenegro	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	France	South Korea	Netherlands	Slovenia	Vatican
Cameroon					



**2003 EPR Packaging Programs**



**2015 EPR Packaging Programs**



**2019 EPR Packaging Programs**

- Mandatory EPR in Effect
- Voluntary EPR in Effect
- EPR in Effect (province-level); In Implementation (country-level)
- In Implementation (India & China expected by 2022)
- Framework EPR Legislation

Map images provided by: 



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