



RECYCLING REFORM FOR MAINE

More Effective • More Sustainable • More Equitable

Letter of Support from Businesses for an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Law as described in LD 1541

Maine's economy depends on a clean and healthy environment. Every year, our reputation as an eco-friendly state with spectacular outdoor spaces draws thousands of families of tourists. Visitors pump millions of dollars into our local businesses and generate significant tax income. Increasingly, customers are demanding products that are not over-packaged, and Mainers demand effective recycling programs.

Maine's local businesses, residents, and tourists all want to do the right thing to protect Maine's environment, but unfortunately the serious problems facing our waste and recycling systems are making that more challenging than it should be.

Maine's taxpayer-funded municipal recycling programs have been struggling to survive since 2017. Today, recycling costs Maine taxpayers an average of 67% more per ton than trash disposal. As a result, cutbacks and closures to municipal recycling programs have occurred throughout Maine as property taxpayers are being asked to pay more.

There is no indication that things will get better unless the Maine Legislature acts to reform recycling. Maine needs to adopt a proven solution known as Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR) that is already used in 47 countries and provinces around the world. Because EPR has been so successful in those places, many states are now working to bring the policy to the U.S.

As local businesses who care about environmental stewardship and the future of Maine, we are joining Maine's municipalities in urging the Maine Legislature to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging law, as described by LD 1541, as soon as possible.

EPR works because it rewards businesses that have prioritized waste reduction and levels the playing field by holding big corporations accountable for the packaging waste they send to Maine. It also creates a more sustainable funding mechanism for local recycling that will reduce the burden on Maine taxpayers.

EPR is a more fair, effective, and sustainable solution for improving recycling that will help support our economy and preserve Maine's image as an environmental leader.

Signed,

Myself, Laura Marston, **Go Go Refill**

Daniel Bell, **Agri-Cycle**

Rob Tod, **Allagash Brewing Company**

Melanie Hodgdon, **Business Systems Management Inc.**

Celine & Patrick Kelley, **Coastal Cafe and Bakery**

Greg & Lauren Soutiea, **Craignair Inn by the Sea & Causeway Restaurant**

Jodi Breau, **Dental Lace LLC**

Kendall Holmes, **Gardiner Food Co-op**

Mason Palmatier, **Little Dog Coffee Shop**

Daniel Kleban, **Maine Beer Company**

Dana Wilfahrt, **Patagonia**

Giuliana Orsky, **Toad & Co**

Ethan Whited, **Vagabond Coffee Truck**

Tyler Gleason, **We Compost It**

Marla Baldassare, **We Fill Good**