

**Testimony in Opposition to
LD 1564, An Act to Delay Implementation of Recent Changes to Maine's Beverage Container
Redemption Law**

Vanessa Berry, NRCM Sustainable Maine Program Manager

April 22, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Vanessa Berry. I am the Sustainable Maine Program Manager for the Natural Resources Council of Maine. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 1564.

In 2023, this Committee thoughtfully reviewed the current challenges and opportunities to improve Maine's Returnable Beverage Container Program, otherwise known as Maine's "Bottle Bill." This program is one of the state's most successful product stewardship programs, recovering 77% of eligible containers,¹ preventing roadside litter, and promoting robust recycling opportunities for the material. The updates to Maine's Bottle Bill program occurred at a time when redemption centers that sort and process these containers for recycling were facing extreme financial difficulties and some were closing down because of inefficiencies in the sorting process and the growing costs of operation.

During the 131st Legislature, this Committee — including many of you — worked hard to ensure that Maine's redemption centers were adequately compensated, reflecting the impact of inflation, for their work through the passage of [LD 134](#). The ENR Committee also allowed these facilities to adapt their operations to modernize the beverage container recycling system in Maine through provisions included in the Bottle Bill modernization bill ([LD 1909](#)).

Redemption centers are eager to make these changes and trim the costs of their operations through the implementation of these efficiencies and through reimbursement for essential items like bags. For these reasons, NRCM opposes the delay in implementation of the law, as proposed by LD 1564. We urge the Committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass." Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

¹ [2025 Maine Product Stewardship Report, Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)