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From: Laura Marston <laura@gogorefill.com>
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 12:13 PM
To: Maine Packaging EPR
Subject: Comment on Draft Rules for EPR and request for extension

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To Maine DEP,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments & feedback on the draft rules for EPR.

I own Maine's first zero-waste store - GoGo Refill. I'm writing today as a Maine business owner and a citizen who cares deeply about waste reduction and reuse as a climate solution.

First, I wish to ask for an extension to review the dense and tricky rules put out just recently. Two weeks is not enough time to fully understand and formulate comments.

Second, I was very disappointed to not see any reimbursements outlined for companies who choose a reuse system for their packaging. It seems to me that reuse & refill systems would be the best outcome of a bill like EPR. We have this current opportunity to create what we want to see - and we should build that in right now. It will only be harder to add it in down the line. The word "reuse" comes before "recycle" in the waste hierarchy for a reason. A package that is reused one time cuts its carbon footprint in half, so if we're really looking for climate solutions, reuse beats recycling every time.

Thank you for listening to my comments.

- Laura Marston

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