

**Nadeau, Jessica**

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**From:** Blake Whitaker <blakew@maine.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:02 PM  
**To:** DEP Rule Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 428: Stewardship Program for Packaging

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DEP,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging rules. Implementing EPR will reduce taxpayer costs, improve recycling, and reduce the waste entering our landfills.

It's unfair that Maine taxpayers and communities are on the hook for the wasteful packaging produced by large companies that ends up in our waste stream. EPR is a commonsense solution that provides financial incentives for producers to minimize waste and increase recyclability. Maine has had success in other EPR programs, like the bottle bill and programs for rechargeable batteries, mercury-containing products, electronics, paint, and pharmaceuticals. Applying this practical approach to packaging is a logical next step.

I urge the Board to adopt the EPR for Packaging rules, setting an example for other states and contributing to a cleaner, more sustainable Maine. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Blake Whitaker  
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