



Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies • PO Box 6163 • Penacook, NH 03303 • www.cswnh.org

January 20, 2025

The Honorable Judy Aron
House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Granite Place Room 153
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Support for HB 1789 relative to extended producer responsibility.

Dear Chair Aron and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 1789 on behalf of Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies. We are a New Hampshire-based non-profit environmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable management of solid waste.

HB 1789 would create a program to enact extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and would provide for oversight and management of the program through the collection of stewardship fees as managed by producers.

Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies strongly supports the concept of extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging. This policy shifts the responsibility for managing used packaging materials from the consumer to the producer. In addition to providing financial savings for municipalities and taxpayers, EPR creates incentives to redesign packaging to use easily recyclable materials and minimize waste.

Maine was the first state to enact an EPR for packaging law, passing legislation in 2021. An amendment in 2025 updated the law to reflect evolution of the implementation process in bills enacted in other states. EPR for packaging is on the way to becoming a cornerstone policy in the United States. To date, seven states have adopted EPR for packaging legislation (see Table 1 below), and discussions about a national program are underway.

Program implementation typically involves numerous steps, each phase lasting multiple years.

Phase 1: Building the foundation

- Selection of Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)
- Appointment and activation of Advisory Board
- Registration of service providers
- Needs assessments conducted

Phase 2: Establishing the structure

- Creation of collection lists
- Development of PRO program requirements
- Submission of PRO's initial stewardship plan
- Advisory Board and public input to stewardship plan

Phase 3: Implementing change and tracking progress

- Implementation of approved stewardship plan
- Phased PRO coverage of service and program costs
- Submission of PRO annual reports
- Affected packaging and paper products must meet required standards

It is our understanding that HB 1789 was modeled after Maine's legislation. Each state's program is somewhat unique, and the Committee may wish to review other available models, particularly that of Colorado, and carefully consider which approaches are most appropriate here.

We urge you to support legislation that provides New Hampshire with an efficient and effective EPR for packaging program that maximizes benefits for New Hampshire.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1789.

Sincerely,



Clark T. Corson
Program Director

Table 1. State EPR for packaging laws as of January 2026.

State	Title	Enactment
Maine	An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money	2021
	An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program For Packaging	2025
Oregon	Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act	2021
California	Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act	2022
Colorado	Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling Act	2022
Minnesota	Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act	2024
Maryland	Packaging and Paper Products – Producer Responsibility Plans Act	2025
Washington	Recycling Reform Act	2025