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Chief Executive Officer/Founder

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Chairman Judy Aron and Vice Chairman Liz Barbour
House Environment and Agriculture Committee
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SUPPORT – HB 1789-FN, An Act Relative to Extended Producer Responsibility

Dear Chairman Aron, Vice Chairman Barbour, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1789-FN, which would establish a producer-funded extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for consumer packaging in New Hampshire.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) strongly supports the policy direction of HB 1789-FN. The bill reflects many of the core elements found in successful packaging EPR laws enacted in other states and provides a solid framework to reduce packaging waste, improve recycling system performance, and shift end-of-life management costs from municipalities and taxpayers to producers.

Specifically, HB 1789-FN appropriately requires producers to finance packaging reduction, recycling, education, and state oversight; establishes a centralized packaging reduction organization under state supervision; provides reimbursement to municipalities for eligible recycling costs; requires a recurring statewide needs assessment; and includes reporting, auditing, and enforcement provisions. Together, these elements create a strong foundation for a durable, accountable packaging stewardship program.

To further strengthen the bill and support effective implementation, PSI respectfully offers the following recommendations for consideration:

- **Expand Covered Materials:** PSI recommends expanding the definition of covered materials to include paper products (such as newspapers, magazines, and unwanted mail), which accounts for about 18 percent of the municipal waste landfill stream. Including these materials would ensure more comprehensive system coverage, reduce confusion for residents and local governments, and improve alignment with packaging EPR programs in other states.
- **Authorize Eco-Modulated Producer Fees:** PSI recommends authorizing the packaging reduction organization to incorporate eco-modulated fees into the producer fee structure. Eco-modulation allows fees to be adjusted to reward

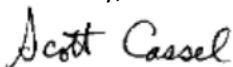
packaging that is recyclable, reusable, or contains post-consumer recycled content, and to discourage packaging that is difficult and costly to manage. This approach strengthens design-for-environment outcomes while maintaining producer cost internalization.

- **Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Council:** PSI recommends establishing a formal advisory council to provide structured stakeholder input to the department and the packaging reduction organization. Advisory council representation should include local governments, recyclers and waste management entities, environmental organizations, and environmental justice or community-based interests. Advisory councils have proven effective in other states for improving transparency, problem-solving, and long-term program performance.
- **Clarify Collection Convenience Standards:** PSI recommends clarifying minimum collection convenience standards to ensure equitable, statewide access to recycling services. Clear standards tied to population coverage and service parity with trash disposal help ensure consistent access across rural, suburban, and urban communities while supporting cost-effective program design.
- **Strengthen Access Provisions:** PSI recommends incorporating provisions that improve access to recycling services in underserved communities. These provisions help ensure the program delivers benefits equitably across the state.

HB 1789-FN represents a significant opportunity to modernize New Hampshire's recycling system, reduce municipal cost burdens, and improve environmental outcomes through a proven policy framework. With the targeted refinements outlined above, the bill can more fully align with established best practices and support effective, long-term implementation.

For these reasons, PSI respectfully urges the Committee to **support HB 1789-FN**, with consideration of the recommendations described above. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954, or Scott@ProductStewardship.US.

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Officer/Founder