



## The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Saviello & Joan Welsh, Co-chairpersons  
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: LD 1204, “An Act To Increase Recycling and Composting by Creating the Maine Recycling Fund” –  
OPPOSE**

Dear Chairpersons Saviello & Welsh,

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) is the “Voice of Plastics Recycling™.” APR represents companies who acquire, reprocess and sell the byproduct of more than 90 percent of the postconsumer plastic processing capacity in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Membership includes independent recycling companies of all sizes, processing numerous resins, as well as consumer product companies, equipment manufacturers, testing laboratories, organizations, and others committed to the success of plastics recycling.

Demand for recycled plastic resin is at an all-time high. More and more brand companies are requesting recycled plastic for use in their products to help meet their sustainability goals. Although plastic recyclers successfully find markets for the material they produce, securing sufficient supply of material to reclaim can be difficult.

APR members with operations in your state are certain to suffer revenue losses which could lead to a reduction in employment numbers. We are certain you will hear arguments from other parties concerning the negative impact on recycling jobs, as well as the potential for confusion on the part of consumers as to what containers remain included in the collection system. These factors also contribute to a smaller volume of material available for recycling

For this reason we would like to go on record in opposition to LD 1204-An Act to Increase Recycling and Composting by Creating the Maine Recycling Fund. Our concern with the passage of this proposal is that it will result in less material available for recycling, particularly given the market demand pressures for reclaimed resin. In addition, because comingled material is not as valuable as material that has been separated, the proposal will decrease the value of material that remains for recycling. Reduction of the volume of material available for recycling could lead to a loss of more than \$700,000 annually to recyclers in Maine, or nearly twice as much as this bill purports to raise in fees.

We would like to applaud the committee for efforts to increase recycling rates as the plastics recycling industry has made historical investments in processing capacity in the last 3 years. While the industry’s demand for material available for reclamation continues to grow, the passage of this proposal would result in a decrease in the amount of material available for recyclers to process into new products.



## The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

We apologize for not appearing in person, but are happy to provide additional information should you determine appropriate.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Steve Alexander

Executive Director

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

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Cc:

Senator Thomas Saviello, Chair

Representative Joan Welsh, Chair

Senator Eric Brakey

Senator Catherine Breen

Representative Andrew Buckland

Representative Richard Campbell

Representative Benjamin Chipman

Representative Robert Duchesne

Representative Jeffrey Hanley

Representative Denise Harlow

Representative John Martin

Representative Ralph Tucker

Representative Dustin White