Memorandum of Support: Calendar # 772

The New York Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act Senate 1464 (Senator Harckham) / Assembly 1749 (Assemblymember Glick)

October 28, 2025

The undersigned 314 organizations strongly support the adoption of Senate Bill 1464 / Assembly Bill 1749. This bill will significantly reduce the proliferation of single-use plastic packaging, save local tax dollars, make packaging less toxic, reduce the amount of packaging material clogging landfills and being burned in incinerators, protect public health, and help the state meet the mandates outlined in the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would:

- Reduce plastic packaging by 30% gradually over the next 12 years;
- Require 75% of the remaining packaging to be **reused and/or recycled** by 2052 with a minimum 20% being reused;
- Prohibit the false solution of "chemical recycling" from counting toward recycling targets;
- Save tax dollars by requiring companies to pay modest fees on packaging that encourage packaging to be reduced or designed for reuse and recyclability;
- Require these packaging fees to provide local taxpayer relief by paying local government the costs of recycling and disposal of single-use packaging, and to provide grants supporting reuse and refill projects; and
- **Prohibit 17 toxic chemicals and materials** from packaging that are known to be harmful to human health and the environment.

Exemptions:

- Companies that gross less than \$5 million in sales;
- Agricultural cooperatives with fewer than 50 employees that produce dairy products;
- Infant formula and medical foods;
- Products regulated as drugs, medical devices, or dietary supplements by federal law;
- Animal biologics, including vaccines;
- Pesticide packaging:
- Packaging used to contain hazardous or flammable products;
- Architectural paint containers; and
- Beverage containers that have deposits and are covered by the Returnable Container Deposit Law (Bottle Bill).

Plastic packaging is a major fiscal, environmental justice, climate change, and human health problem:

➤ **Plastic pollution is growing:** In 2020, 35.7 million tons of plastic was made in the United States,¹ and plastic production is slated to double in the next 20 years.²

²https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate_and_plastic_executive_summary.pdf

¹https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data

- ➤ Microplastics have been found almost everywhere in the environment and in the human body: in the air,³ drinking water,⁴ human blood,⁵ lungs,⁶ breast milk,⁻ placentas,⁶ and testicles.⁶
- ➤ Environmental justice: Most U.S. plastic is manufactured in communities of color and low-income communities in Louisiana, Texas, and Appalachia. Incinerators and landfills are also often located in low-income communities and communities of color.
- ➤ **Plastic's role in climate change:** Plastic production is warming the planet four times faster than air travel, according to a federal government study released in April 2024.¹⁰
- ➤ Ocean plastic pollution: The ocean is swiftly becoming a watery landfill, with negative effects on marine life. Thirty-three billion pounds of plastic enter the ocean each year worldwide, the equivalent of two garbage trucks per minute, primarily from land-based sources.¹¹

Key provisions of this bill:

Recycling and reduction targets: Businesses that sell consumer products in New York state would be required to reduce single-use plastic packaging by 30% within 12 years, including packaging used to transport products. Remaining packaging would have to be redesigned to be refilled within a refill system or be truly recyclable; the bill mandates a 75% recycling rate, with a minimum of 20% of packaging reused, by 2052. A mere 5% to 6% of U.S. plastic waste is currently recycled, ¹² and it is most often turned into products or materials of lesser value (e.g., downcycled into plastic "lumber"). ¹³ Because the bill will require packaging to be reduced, reused, or redesigned to be effectively recyclable, recycling facilities will no longer be inundated with worthless plastic waste that they pay to handle and then send to expensive landfills and incinerators.

Broad public support: New Yorkers support reducing plastic packaging. In a 2024 Siena poll, **82% of New York voters** said that single-use plastic packaging is a problem. A **bipartisan two-thirds** (67%) support the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act. Highest support was among African-American voters, with 81% in favor.¹⁴

Toxic chemical reductions: The bill makes packaging safer by prohibiting 17 toxic chemicals — including PFAS, vinyl chloride, lead, mercury, phthalates, formaldehyde, bisphenols, and toluene — that are used in food packaging, including packaging for baby food. These chemicals can be carcinogenic, endocrine-disrupting, or otherwise harmful to human health.¹⁵

³ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8520475/

⁴ https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516198

⁵ https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/24/microplastics-found-in-human-blood-for-first-time

⁶ https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/microplastics-in-humans-after-blood-scientists-find-traces-in-the-lungs

⁷ https://www.thequardian.com/environment/2022/oct/07/microplastics-human-breast-milk-first-time

⁸ https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33395930/

⁹ Qiancheng Zhao, Long Zhu, Jiaming Weng, Zirun Jin, Yalei Cao, Hui Jiang, Zhe Zhang, Detection and characterization of microplastics in the human testis and semen, Science of The Total Environment, Volume 877, 2023, 162713, ISSN 0048-9697

¹⁰ https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate and plastic executive summary.pdf

¹¹ Forrest et al. Eliminating Plastic Pollution: How a Voluntary Contribution From Industry Will Drive the Circular Plastics Economy, Frontiers, September 25, 2019. https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00627

¹² https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/04/us-recycling-plastic-waste

¹³ https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-recycling-isnt-the-answer-to-the-plastic-pollution-problem/

¹⁴ https://scri.siena.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/SNY0624-Crosstabs.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/news-room/2020/plastics-pose-threat-to-human-health

Saves local taxpayer dollars: Companies will be required to reimburse local governments for their costs in recycling and disposing of their packaging waste — rather than taxpayers. And local governments will save tax dollars by not having to pay to transport, landfill, or burn so much packaging waste.

Incentives for reducing packaging's environmental impact: Through the use of "eco-modulated" fees, the bill incentivizes companies to redesign their packaging to be reduced, reused, or recycled more effectively. Those that do so will pay less under the fee structure.

Wisely defines chemical recycling as waste disposal: In addition, chemical recycling will not count toward recycling targets. as these technologies have been widely debunked and are a false solution to plastic waste. 16,17,18,19,20

Combats climate change: The New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan specifically calls for legislation to establish a producer responsibility program for packaging and to "phase out single-use packaging." The legislature should pass this bill in order to meet the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, as required by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

In sum, this bill would save tax dollars and position New York as a global leader in reducing plastic pollution.

For more information, visit <u>BeyondPlastics.org</u> or contact Judith Enck at <u>judithenck@bennington.edu</u> and Alexis Goldsmith at <u>alexisgoldsmith@bennington.edu</u>.

Signed,

Beyond Plastics, Bennington
Environmental Advocates of New York (EANY), Albany
Episcopal Diocese of New York City, New York
American Lung Association New York, New York
Consumer Reports, Yonkers
New York Council of Churches, Albany
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Albany
New York State Academy of Pediatrics, New York
Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York, New York
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), New York
League of Women Voters New York, Albany
United University Professions, Latham
Earthjustice, New York

¹⁶ https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/chemical-recycling-greenwashing-incineration-ib.pdf

¹⁷https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eda91260bbb7e7a4bf528d8/t/655791f76ad9bb07d10e1290/1700237880522/10-30 -23 Chemical-Recycling-Report web.pdf

¹⁸https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chemical-Recycling-of-Sachet-Waste_A-Failed-Experiment-2022.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CR-Briefing_June-2020.pdf

²⁰ https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26132/reckoning-with-the-us-role-in-global-ocean-plastic-waste

Hip Hop Caucus, Silver Spring, MD

Scenic Hudson, Poughkeepsie

Food and Water Watch, Brooklyn

Just Zero, Sturbridge, MA

Friends of the Earth, Merrifield, VA

Blueland, New York

Climate Reality Project - NYS Chapters Coalition, New York

Citizen Action of New York, Albany

Oceana, New York

For the Many, Poughkeepsie

NY/NJ Baykeeper, Hazlet, NJ

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary - Eastern United States, Tarrytown

Church Women United in New York State, New York

Work on Waste, USA, Binghamton

The Last Plastic Straw, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Meliora Cleaning Products, Chicago

Only One, New York

Plaine Products, Cincinnati

Plastic Pollution Coalition, Washington, DC

350 Brooklyn, Brooklyn

350 NYC, New York

A Sustainable Village, New York

ACES Aurorans for Climate and Environmental Sense, East Aurora

Actors' Temple, Congregation Ezrath Israel, New York

Adirondack Garden Club, Keene

Albany County Central Federation of Labor, Albany

Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force, Albany

All Our Energy, Long Beach

Alliance for a Green Economy, Syracuse

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, Mount Rainier, MD

American Littoral Society, NE Chapter, New York

Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, Saugerties

Bedford 2030, Katonah

Beloved Earth Community, Bronx

Beloved Earth Community @ the Riverside Church, New York

Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle, Bethlehem

Bethlehem NY Indivisible, Delmar

Beyond Plastics Altamont, Altamont

Beyond Plastics Brooklyn, Brooklyn

Beyond Plastics Queens, Queens

Beyond Plastics Schenectady, Schenectady

Beyond Plastics Sullivan County, Callicoon

Big Reuse, Brooklyn

Billion Oyster Project, New York

BK ROT, Brooklyn

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, Albany

Broadview Environmental Group, Purchase

Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group, Bellport

Brooklyn For Peace, Brooklyn

Bronx River Alliance, Bronx

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Buffalo

Buy Local, Grow Local, Albany

Cafeteria Culture, New York

Campaign for Renewable Energy, Ithaca

Canaan Congregational Church UCC, Canaan

Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC), Niskayuna

Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Arkville

Cazenovia Environmental Club, Cazenovia

Center for Zero Waste Design, Brooklyn

CCOHOPE Indivisible, Croton-on-Hudson

Christ the King Episcopal Church, Stone Ridge

Church Women United in New York State, Rochester

Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution / CCAPP, Woodstock

Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena-Coeymans, New Baltimore

Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, Buffalo

Climate Can't Wait, Albany

Climate Change Awareness and Action, Inc., Fayetteville

Climate Change Resources Inc., New York

Climate Crisis Working Group of Indivisible Mohawk Valley, Clinton

Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV), Utica

Climate Families NYC, Brooklyn

Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, Rochester

Coastal Research & Education Society of Long Island, Inc. (CRESLI), West Sayville

Color Henrietta Green, Henrietta

Color Pittsford Green, Pittsford

Columbia County Reduces Waste--Bring Your Own, Ghent

Common Ground Compost, New York

Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment, Canaan

Concerned Health Professionals of New York

Congregation of the Mission, New York

Creation CareTeam of St. Augustine Church, Larchmont

Creative Bath Sales, New York

CupZero, Brooklyn

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Narrowsburg

Dayenu Nassau County, Merrick

Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University, New Rochelle

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society of New York, Oneonta

DeliverZero, New York

Dominican Sisters of Hope, Ossining

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, Sparkill

Don't Trash the Catskills, Roxbury

Earth & Me, New York

Earth Care Honeoye, Honeoye

Eco Harmony Inc., East Hampton

EcoJustice Collaborative of the American Baptist Churches, Rochester

El Puente, Brooklyn

Energy Justice Law and Policy Center, New Rochelle

Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking, Elmira

Environmental Justice Ministry of First Unitarian of Rochester, Rochester

Episcopal Diocese of NY Creation Care Committee, New York

Esopus Creek Conservancy, Saugerties

Extinction Rebellion Mid-Hudson, New Paltz

Families for a Livable Future Tompkins, Ithaca

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, White Plains

Fellowship of the Sacred Earth, Troy

First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls, Glens Falls

First Reformed Church Creation Care Committee, Schenectady

Friends of Liberty State Park, New York

Foodscraps 360 LLC, Albany

Fossil Free Tompkins, Ithaca

Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, New York

Frack Action, Highland

FrackBustersNY, New York

Franciscan Friars of Laudato Si' Center for Integral Ecology, Loudonville

First Draft Farm Nursery, Troy

Fridays For Future NYC, New York

Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation, East Hampton

Grassland Bird Trust, Inc., Schuylerville

Grassroots Environmental Education, Port Washington and White Plains

Green Education and Legal Fund, Poestenkill

Green Ossining, Ossining

Green Party of Monroe County, Rochester

Green Party of Nassau County, Island Park

Green Party of New York, New York

Green Party of Onondaga County, Syracuse

Green Sanctuary Committee - Albany Unitarians, Albany

GreeningUSA, Syracuse

Groundwork Hudson Valley, Yonkers

Healthy Yards, Bedford

Home Earth Alliance/IMAGINE Native Plant Farm, Delmar

HomeLand Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Schenectady

Housatonic Environmental Action League, Inc. (HEAL), Cornwall Bridge

Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Philipstown

Hudson and Mohawk Rivers Leachate Collaborative, Kingston

Hudson Valley Advocates, Dobbs Ferry

Hudson River Audubon Society, Yonkers

Hudson River Expeditions, Cold Spring

Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Beacon

Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center, Kingston

Indivisible Binghamton, Binghamton

Indivisible New Rochelle, New Rochelle

Indivisible NW Bronx, Bronx

Indivisible Larchmont/Mamaroneck, Larchmont

Indivisible NYCD16, Yonkers

Indivisible Rochester, Rochester

Indivisible Scarsdale, Scarsdale

Indivisible Stephentown, East Nassau

Interfaith Earth Action, New Paltz

Interfaith Public Health Network, Poughkeepsie

It's Easy Being Green, New York

Izzy Beauty Inc, New York

Jewish Climate Action Network, New York

JSA ESG Impact, Germantown

Judson Memorial Church, New York

Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc., New City

KingstonCitizens.org, Kingston

Kite's Nest, Hudson

Larrecca Music, Kingston

League of Women Voters Albany County, Albany

League of Women Voters Cortland County, Cortland

League of Women Voters Oneonta, Oneonta

League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County, Canton

League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns, Hastings-on-Hudson

League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, Saratoga Springs

Lights Out Norlite, Cohoes

Long Beach Latino Civic Association, Long Beach

Long Island Progressive Coalition, Massapequa

Messiah Lutheran Church, Schenectady

Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement, New York

Mothers Out Front Dutchess County, Poughkeepsie

Mothers Out Front NY, Sleepy Hollow

Mountain Top Progressives, Windham

Mountain Rise United Church of Christ, Fairport

Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, Elmont

News from the Neighborhood, Delmar

NCEA, Glens Falls

North Brooklyn Community Boathouse, Brooklyn

Northern Westchester Mothers Out Front, Croton-on-Hudson

NYC Metro Raging Grannies, New York

NYenvironcom, New Paltz

NYPAN Environmental Committee, Cairo

NY Water Action, Buffalo

New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, New Paltz

New York Progressive Action Network, Athens

New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, New York

New Yorkers for Clean Power, Kingston

Niagara Frontier Surfrider Foundation, Hamburg

NO Safe Level & Cameron Committee for a Safe Environment, Cameron

North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE), Roosevelt

North Shore Audubon Society, Port Washington

Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Palenville

NYC H2O, New York

Ocaquatics Swim School, Miami

Operation SPLASH, Freeport

Otsego Land Trust Inc, Cooperstown

OurCitizens.org, Kingston

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Auburn

PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy), Albany

Pachamama Alliance, Rochester

Peckham Action Group, Catskill

Peconic Baykeeper, Hampton Bays

People for a Healthy Environment, Elmira

Pleasant Valley Community Gardens, Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe, Pleasant Valley

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland, Slingerlands

Progressive Schenectady. Schenectady

Protect the Adirondacks! Inc., Johnsburg

Protecting Our Waters, Stone Ridge

Putnam Progressives, Mahopac

Queens Climate Project, Jackson Heights

Re: Dish Co, Brooklyn

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, New York

Rensselaer County Women for Change, Troy

Rensselaer Environmental Coalition, Rensselaer

Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT), Owego

Roctricity, LLC, Rochester

RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity), Far Rockaway

Rise and Resist, New York

Riverkeeper, Ossining

Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith, Chatham

ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River), Mount Vernon

Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA), Rochester

Rocking the Boat, New York

Rockland Audubon Society, New City

Roctricity LLC, Rochester

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church, New York

Saugerties Lighthouse Conservancy, Saugerties

Sanctuary Club, Cazenovia

SAVE Colonie: A Partnership for Planning, Colonie

Save The Great South Bay, Babylon

Save The River, Clayton

Save the Sound, Larchmont

Saw Mill River Audubon, Chappaqua

Seeding Sovereignty, New York

Seneca Lake Guardian, Watkins Glen

Sisters of Charity of New York, Bronx

Sisters of Mercy Justice Team -- NY, Albany

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, Rochester

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor

Solarize Albany, Albany

Solidarity Committee, Capital District, Albany

South Shore Audubon Society, Freeport

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, New York

St. Peters Presbyterian Church, Spencertown

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), North Salem

Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, Narrowsburg

Sure We Can, Brooklyn

Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island Chapter, Southampton

Surfrider Foundation New York City, New York

Surfrider Foundation Niagara Frontier, Hamburg

SurfRnR.org, New York

Sustainable Putnam, Mahopac

Sustainable Saratoga, Saratoga

Sustainable Sullivan, Callicoon

Sustainable Warwick, Warwick

Sustainable Westchester, Mt. Kisco

SWIM Coalition, New York

Swing Left Target Majority, Brooklyn

Temple Beth Shalom, Hastings-on-Hudson

Temple B'rith Kodesh Social Action Committee, Rochester

Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Croton-on-Hudson

The BioBoat, New York

The Clean Air Coalition of WNY, Buffalo

The Park Church Climate Justice Team, Elmira

Think Zero LLC, New York

Third Act Upstate New York, Clinton

Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona University, New Rochelle

Times Up, New York

Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, Ithaca

Town of Copake Conservation Advisory Committee, Copake

TownOfUlsterCitizens.org, Ulster

Transition Town Port Washington, Port Washington

Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons, Inc., Jamesport

Ulster Activists, New Paltz

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, Kingston

UNCAGED, Gloversville

United Climate Action Network (UCAN), Cazenovia

United Muslim Alliance of Albany, Albany

Uncommon Goods, Brooklyn

Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica, Utica

United For Clean Energy, Peekskill

Uptown Progressive Action, a NYPAN chapter, New York

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton Green Sanctuary, Binghamton

UUDig Community Garden, Rochester

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Hastings-on-Hudson

Watervliet Huddle, Watervliet

We Are One - Sullivan, Callicoon

WESPAC Foundation, Inc., White Plains

Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS), Westchester

Western New York Drilling Defense, Buffalo

Western New York Environmental Alliance, Buffalo

Westhampton Garden Club, Westhampton

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany

Women Against War, Albany

Woodstock Farm Festival, Woodstock

Woodstock Land Conservancy, Woodstock

Woodstock NY Transition, Woodstock

Zero Waste Capital District, Glenmont

Zero Waste NYC, Astoria