

# Memorandum of Support

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

March 19, 2025

**The undersigned 206 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,<sup>1</sup> and plastic production is slated to double in the next 20 years.<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup>[https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate\\_and\\_plastic\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate_and_plastic_executive_summary.pdf)

- **Microplastics have been found almost everywhere** in the environment and in the human body: in the air,<sup>3</sup> drinking water,<sup>4</sup> human blood,<sup>5</sup> lungs,<sup>6</sup> breast milk,<sup>7</sup> placentas,<sup>8</sup> and testicles.<sup>9</sup>
- **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.<sup>10</sup>
- **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.<sup>11</sup>

### 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,<sup>12</sup> and it is most often turned into products or materials of lesser value (e.g., downcycled into plastic “lumber”).<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

**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.<sup>15</sup>

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

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/07/microplastics-human-breast-milk-first-time>

<sup>8</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33395930/>

<sup>9</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup> [https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate\\_and\\_plastic\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate_and_plastic_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> 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>

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

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

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

<sup>15</sup> <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.<sup>16,17,18,19,20</sup>

**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 [BeyondPlastics.org](https://BeyondPlastics.org) or contact Judith Enck at [judithenck@bennington.edu](mailto:judithenck@bennington.edu) and Alexis Goldsmith at [alexisgoldsmith@bennington.edu](mailto:alexisgoldsmith@bennington.edu)

Signed,

Beyond Plastics

350 Brooklyn

350 NYC

A Sustainable Village

ACES Aurorans for Climate and Environmental Sense

Adirondack Garden Club

Albany County Central Federation of Labor

Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force

All Our Energy

New York, NY

Brooklyn, NY

New York, NY

New York, NY

East Aurora, NY

Keene, NY

Albany NY

Albany, NY

Point Lookout, NY

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

<sup>17</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eda91260bbb7e7a4bf528d8/t/655791f76ad9bb07d10e1290/1700237880522/10-30-23\\_Chemical-Recycling-Report\\_web.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eda91260bbb7e7a4bf528d8/t/655791f76ad9bb07d10e1290/1700237880522/10-30-23_Chemical-Recycling-Report_web.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chemical-Recycling-of-Sachet-Waste\\_A-Failed-Experiment-2022.pdf](https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chemical-Recycling-of-Sachet-Waste_A-Failed-Experiment-2022.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CR-Briefing\\_June-2020.pdf](https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CR-Briefing_June-2020.pdf)

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

Alliance for a Green Economy	Syracuse, NY
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments	Mount Rainier, MD
American Littoral Society, NE Chapter	New York, NY
American Lung Association New York	New York, NY
Bedford 2030	Katonah, NY
Beloved Earth Community	Bronx, NY
Beyond Plastics Altamont	Altamont, NY
Beyond Plastics Brooklyn	Brooklyn, NY
Beyond Plastics Queens	Queens, NY
Beyond Plastics Schenectady	Schenectady
Beyond Plastics Sullivan County	Callicoon, NY
Big Reuse	Brooklyn, NY
BK ROT	Brooklyn, NY
Blueland	New York, NY
Broadview Environmental Group	Purchase NY
Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group	Bellport, NY
Bronx River Alliance	Bronx, NY
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Buffalo, NY
Buy Local, Grow Local	Albany, NY
Campaign for Renewable Energy	Ithaca, NY
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC)	Niskayuna, NY
Catskill Center for Conservation and Development	Arkville, NY
Center for Zero Waste Design	Brooklyn, NY
CCOHOPE Indivisible	Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Church Women United in New York State	Rochester, NY
Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution / CCAPP	Woodstock, NY
Center for Zero Waste Design	Brooklyn, NY
Church Women United in New York State	Rochester NY
Citizen Action of New York	Albany, NY
Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution	Ulster County, NY
Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena-Coeymans	New Baltimore, NY
Climate Can't Wait	Albany, NY
Climate Change Awareness and Action, Inc.	Fayetteville, NY

Climate Change Resources Inc.	New York, NY
Climate Crisis Working Group of Indivisible Mohawk Valley	Clinton, NY
Climate Families NYC	Brooklyn, NY
Climate Reality Project - NYS Chapters Coalition	New York, NY
Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region	Rochester, NY
Color Henrietta Green	Henrietta, NY
Columbia County Reduces Waste--Bring Your Own	Ghent, NY
Common Ground Compost	New York, NY
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment	Canaan, NY
Consumer Reports	Yonkers, NY
Creative Bath Sales	New York
CupZero	Brooklyn, NY
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability	Narrowsburg, NY
Dayenu Nassau County	Merrick, NY
Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University	New Rochelle NY
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. (NY)	Oneonta, NY
DeliverZero	New York, NY
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill	Sparkill, NY
Don't Trash the Catskills	Roxbury, NY
Earth & Me	New York, NY
Earthjustice	New York, NY
Energy Justice Law and Policy Center	New Rochelle, NY
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking	Elmira, NY
Environmental Advocates of New York	Albany, NY
Environmental Justice Ministry of First Unitarian of Rochester	Rochester, NY
Episcopal Diocese of NY Creation Care Committee	New York, NY
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County	White Plains, NY
Fellowship of the Sacred Earth	Troy, NY
First Reformed Church Creation Care Committee	Schenectady, NY
Food and Water Watch	Brooklyn, NY
Foodscraps 360 LLC	Albany, NY
For the Many	Poughkeepsie, NY

Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York	New York
FrackBustersNY	Cairo, NY
Fridays For Future NYC	New York, NY
Friends of the Earth	Merrifield, VA
Grassland Bird Trust, Inc.	Schuylerville, NY
Grassroots Environmental Education	Port Washington and White Plains, NY
Green Ossining	Ossining, NY
Green Sanctuary Committee - Albany Unitarians	Albany, NY
GreeningUSA	Syracuse
Healthy Yards	Bedford, NY
Home Earth Alliance/IMAGINE Native Plant Farm	Delmar, NY
HomeLand Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet	Schenectady, NY
Hudson Highlands Land Trust	Philipstown, NY
Hudson Valley Advocates	Dobbs Ferry, NY
Indivisible Binghamton	Binghamton, NY
Indivisible NW Bronx	Bronx, NY
Indivisible Larchmont/Mamaroneck	Larchmont, NY
Indivisible NYCD16	Yonkers, NY
Indivisible Rochester	Rochester, NY
Indivisible Scarsdale	Scarsdale, NY
Indivisible Stephentown	East Nassau
Interfaith Earth Action	New Paltz, NY
It's Easy Being Green	New York, NY
Izzy Beauty Inc	New York, NY
JSA ESG Impact	Germantown, NY
Just Zero	Sturbridge, MA
Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc.	New City, NY
KingstonCitizens.org	Kingston, NY
League of Women Voters New York	Albany, NY
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County	Canton, NY
League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns	Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Long Beach Latino Civic Association	Long Beach, NY
Long Island Progressive Coalition	Massapequa, NY

Meliora Cleaning Products	Chicago, IL
Messiah Lutheran Church	Schenectady, NY
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement	New York, NY
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club	Elmont, NY
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)	New York, NY
NYC Metro Raging Grannies	New York, NY
NY/NJ Baykeeper	Hazlet, NJ
NY State Council of Churches	Albany, NY
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)	Albany, NY
New York Progressive Action Network	Athens, NY
New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism	New York, NY
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics	New York, NY
New Yorkers for Clean Power	Kingston, NY
Niagara Frontier Surfrider Foundation	Hamburg, NY
NO Safe Level & Cameron Committee for a Safe Environment	Cameron NY
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)	Roosevelt, NY
North Shore Audubon Society	Port Washington NY
Northern Catskills Audubon Society	Palenville, NY,
Ocaquatics Swim School	Miami, FL
Oceana	New York, NY
Only One	New York, NY
Operation SPLASH	Freeport, NY
Peckham Action Group	Catskill NY
Peconic Baykeeper	Hampton Bays, NY
People for a Healthy Environment	Elmira, NY
Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York	Arkville, NY
Plaine Products	Cincinnati, OH
Plastic Pollution Coalition	Washington, DC
Progressive Schenectady	Schenectady, NY
Protect the Adirondacks! Inc.	Johnsburg, NY
Protecting Our Waters	Stone Ridge, NY
Putnam Progressives	Mahopac NY

Queens Climate Project	Jackson Heights, NY
Re: Dish Co	Brooklyn, NY
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, New York	New York, NY
Rensselaer County Women for Change	Troy, New York
Rensselaer Environmental Coalition	Rensselaer, NY
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)	Owego, NY
Roctricity, LLC	Rochester, NY
RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity)	Far Rockaway, NY
Rise and Resist	New York, NY
Riverkeeper	Ossining, NY
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith	Chatham, NY
ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River)	Mount Vernon, NY
Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA)	Rochester, NY
Rocking the Boat	New York, NY
Rockland Audubon Society	New City, NY
Roctricity LLC	Rochester, NY
Save The Great South Bay	Babylon, NY
Save The River	Clayton, NY
Save the Sound	Larchmont, NY
Saw Mill River Audubon	Chappaqua, NY
Scenic Hudson	Poughkeepsie, NY
Seeding Sovereignty	New York, NY
Seneca Lake Guardian	Watkins Glen, NY
Sisters of Charity of New York	Bronx, NY
Sisters of Mercy Justice Team -- NY	Albany, NY
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York	New York, NY
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, NY	Rochester, NY
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	New Windsor, NY
Solarize Albany	Albany, NY
Solidarity Committee, Capital District	Albany NY
South Shore Audubon Society	Freeport, NY
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church	New York, NY
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development	Narrowsburg, NY



Sure We Can	Brooklyn, NY
Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island Chapter	Southampton, NY
Surfrider Foundation New York City	New York, NY
Surfrider Foundation Niagara Frontier	Hamburg, NY
SurfRnR.org	New York, NY
Sustainable Putnam	Mahopac, NY
Sustainable Saratoga	Saratoga, NY
Sustainable Warwick	Warwick, NY
Swing Left Target Majority	Brooklyn, NY
The Last Plastic Straw	Aguadilla, PR
The Park Church in Elmira	Elmira, NY
Think Zero LLC	New York, NY
Third Act Upstate New York	Clinton, NY
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona University	New Rochelle, NY
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative	Ithaca, NY
TownOfUlsterCitizens.org	Ulster, NY
Transition Town Port Washington	Port Washington, NY
Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons, Inc.	Jamesport, NY
Ulster Activists	New Paltz, NY
Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency	Kingston, NY
United For Clean Energy	Peekskill, NY
Uptown Progressive Action, a NYPAN chapter	New York, NY
UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary	Binghamton, NY
UUDig Community Garden	Rochester, NY
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson	Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Watervliet Huddle	Watervliet, NY
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.	White Plains, NY
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS)	Westchester, NY
Westhampton Garden Club	Westhampton, NY
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Albany NY
Women Against War	Albany, NY
Woodstock Land Conservancy	Woodstock, NY
Zero Waste Capital District	Glenmont, NY

