

# Memorandum of Support

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

January 29, 2025

The undersigned 157 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, and protect public health.

## 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%;
- **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 as required 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 or low-income communities in Louisiana, Texas, and Appalachia. Incinerators and landfills are 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 (i.e., 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 Black/African American voters, with 81% in favor.<sup>14</sup>

**Toxics 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>

**Save 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 the environmental impact of packaging:** 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 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>

**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. Earlier versions of the bill required a 50% reduction of plastic packaging over 12 years; we recommend that requirement return to 50% reduction.**

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

Albany County Central Federation of Labor

All Our Energy

Alliance for a Green Economy

American Littoral Society, NE Chapter

New York

Brooklyn, NY

New York City

New York

East Aurora, New York

Albany NY

Point Lookout, NY

Syracuse, NY

New York City

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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>

American Lung Association New York	New York
Bedford 2030	Katonah (Town of Bedford Hamlet)
Beloved Earth Community	Bronx
Beyond Plastics Altamont	Altamont
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
Bronx River Alliance	Bronx, NY
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Buffalo, NY
Buy Local, Grow Local	Albany, NY
Campaign for Renewable Energy	Ithaca, N.Y.
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition	Albany, NY
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC)	Niskayuna
Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution	New York
Center for Zero Waste Design	Brooklyn, NY
Church Women United in New York State	Rochester NY
Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution	Ulster County, NY
Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena-Coeymans	New Baltimore, NY
Climate Change Resources Inc.	New York, NY
Climate Crisis Working Group of Indivisible Mohawk Valley	Clinton, NY
Climate Reality Project - NYS Chapters Coalition	New York
Color Henrietta Green	Henrietta, NY
Columbia County Reduces Waste--Bring Your Own	Ghent, New York
Common Ground Compost	New York, NY
Consumer Reports	Yonkers, NY
Creative Bath Sales	New York
CupZero	Brooklyn, NY
Dayenu Nassau County	Merrick, NY

Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University	New Rochelle NY
DeliverZero	New York, NY
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill	Sparkill, NY
Earth & Me	New York, 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
Food and Water Watch	Brooklyn, NY
Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York	New York
FrackBustersNY	Cairo, NY
Fridays For Future NYC	New York City
Friends of the Earth	Merrifield, VA
Grassroots Environmental Education	Port Washington and White Plains, New York
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 Valley Advocates	Dobbs Ferry, NY
Indivisible NW Bronx	Bronx
Indivisible NYCD16	Yonkers, NY
Indivisible Rochester	Rochester
Indivisible Scarsdale	Scarsdale, NY
Indivisible Stephentown	East Nassau
Interfaith Earth Action	New Paltz, NY
It's Easy Being Green	New York
Izzy Beauty Inc	New York City
JSA ESG Impact	Germantown, NY

Just Zero	Sturbridge, Massachusetts
Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc.	New City, NY
Larchmont/Mamaroneck Indivisible	Larchmont, 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 Island Progressive Coalition	Massapequa, NY
Messiah Lutheran Church	Schenectady, NY
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement	New York, NY (Metro Area)
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club	Elmont
Natural Resources Defense Council	New York
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)	Albany, NY
New York Progressive Action Network	Athens, NY
New Yorkers for Clean Power	Kingston, 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
Oceana	New York, NY
Only One	New York, NY
Operation SPLASH	Freeport, New York
Peckham Action Group	Catskill NY
Peconic Baykeeper	Hampton Bays, NY
People for a Healthy Environment	Elmira, NY
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
Re:Dish Co	Brooklyn, NY
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, New York	New York, NY
Rensselaer County Women for Change	Troy, New York

Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)	Owego, NY
RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity)	Far Rockaway, New York
Rise and Resist	New York, NY
Riverkeeper	Ossining, NY
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith	Chatham, NY
Rocking the Boat	NY, NY
Rockland Audubon Society	New City, NY
Roctricity LLC	Rochester, NY
SASD	Narrowsburg, NY
Save the Sound	Larchmont, NY
Saw Mill River Audubon	Chappaqua, 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
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, NY	Rochester
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	New Windsor, NY
Solidarity Committee, Capital District	Albany NY 12210
South Shore Audubon Society	Freeport, NY
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church	New York City
Sure We Can	Brooklyn, NY
Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island Chapter	Southampton, NY
Surfrider Foundation New York City	New York
Niagara Frontier Surfrider Foundation	Hamburg, 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	NY NY
Third Act Upstate New York	Clinton, NY
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona University	New Rochelle, NY
Transition Town Port Washington	Port Washington, New York

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, New York
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson	Hastings-on-Hudson
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.	White Plains, NY
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS)	Westchester, NY
Westhampton Garden Club	Westhampton, New York
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Albany New York
Zero Waste Capital District	Glenmont New York
Zero Waste NYC	Astoria, NY