Date

Name and address of legislator

Dear Representative/Senator,

I am a resident of your district. I am writing to express my deep concern about the plastic pollution in our environment and asking you to please support/sponsor the EPR bill HF 4132 authors Jordan, Hollins and Wazlawik and SF 4518 author Senator Dziedzic.

I am very alarmed by the extent of plastic pollution and concerned about what it is doing to our health, our environment and contributing to climate change. The microplastics and chemical additives we breath in and ingest are causing cancer, hormonal disruption and neurological damage. They are killing wildlife and marine animals. A new report, REPORT: The New Coal: Plastics & Climate Change, confirms that the chain of production of plastic is contributing to climate change. The U.S. plastics industry releases CO2e gas emissions per year which are equal to the emissions from 116 average-sized (500-megawatt) coal-fired power plants and the plastic industry is on track to exceed coal-fired power emissions by 2030 with 42 more plants slated to open. This is why a bill that will decrease the amount of single use plastic and address plastic pollution is so important. Plastic pollution is a crisis, and more recycling can’t fix it. 40% of the waste stream is packaging. Local governments are responsible for recycling and have little control over what they must manage.

The EPR bill would hold producers responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste. The producers pay a fee for the type and amount of packaging material they use. The EPR for Packaging puts costs back on producers, so they make different choices. The fees are “eco-modulated” to incentivize reducing and redesigning packaging to make it more recyclable, compostable, or reusable. The goal is to make packaging safer, more recyclable and to reduce packaging altogether.

Presently producers decide what to use for packaging and they have no incentive to reduce, to eliminate toxic chemicals, or to design with recyclability in mind. To get to a circular economy, we must standardize packaging, make it less complex, and get toxic chemicals out.

Please support this important bill to: Reduce the amount of packaging produced; increase the recyclability of packaging; increase reuse / refill options; remove toxic chemicals in packaging; increase post-consumer content in packaging; reduce litter and reduce trash going to landfills, create clear, consistent labeling; reduce hard-to-recycle packaging

it’s already in use in the entire European Union and five Canadian provinces. Maine and Oregon passed EPR for Packaging bills in 2021. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name and address