**PACKAGING EPR TALKING POINTS**

* **New York’s municipal recycling programs are precariously close to failure due to factors beyond the control of local governments.**
	+ For decades, local governments have subsidized the handling of millions of tons of packaging waste generated in the state.
	+ Consumer confusion over complex packaging and inconsistent labeling has led to high rates of contamination.
	+ International markets for recycled materials are increasingly volatile.
	+ Governments must decide whether or not they can continue funding and operating their recycling programs.
	+ Even waste *disposal* capacity is not guaranteed in the long-term.
* **There is only one solution: legislation being considered by the New York State Legislature regarding packaging waste reduction and recycling.**
	+ It’s also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper products (PPP).
	+ EPR for PPP will fix New York’s fragmented recycling system and build an equitable, cost-effective program that is not financed by taxpayers.
	+ It provides sustainable funding from producers to relieve municipalities of the financial burdens they currently face in operating recycling programs.
	+ It will also require clear, consistent consumer education on the proper end-of-life management of consumer packaging to reduce confusion and contamination.
	+ The impact will be massive for New York state, where the recycling rate is just 18%.
* **It is critical that this issue be addressed in the budget.**
	+ Local governments need Department of Environmental Conservation resources in place to initiate this policy.
	+ Addressing it outside the budget risks costly delays or even the potential for this crucial issue to once again not be addressed.
* **It will save New York local governments more than $300 million each year, expand access to recycling for all state residents, triple stagnant recycling rates, and create green jobs.**
	+ Our state’s communities and taxpayers spend that much money each year just to recycle, which does not even include the cost of waste disposal.
	+ A packaging EPR law in New York will hold brand owners responsible for financing and managing their post-consumer packaging and paper, which is 40% of the waste stream.
* **Four states – Maine, Oregon, Colorado, and California – have enacted packaging EPR laws.**
	+ In Europe and Canada, over 40 countries and provinces have packaging EPR programs.
		- Many have been in place for more than 35 years.
		- Some track recycling rates as high as 80%.
* **The governor’s proposal would lower greenhouse gas emissions from waste, helping the state to reach the climate goals established by the Climate Action Council.**
	+ In fact, the CAC strongly recommended that a packaging EPR bill be enacted in New York state for that very reason.
* **The need for a new recycling approach has never been clearer. For local governments, that time must be now.**

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