



May 8, 2026

Honorable Deborah J. Glick
Chairperson, Environmental Conservation Committee
New York State Assembly
172 State Street
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairperson Glick,

Board of Directors

Dawn M. Timm, Chair
Niagara County

Kristen R. Lawton, Secretary
OCRRRA

Ken Armellino, P.E. Treasurer
Reworld

Resa A Dimino
RRS

Todd Ellis
The Battery Network

Nicole Fornof
Monroe County

Kate Kitchener
New York City Dept. Sanitation

Kat McCarthy
Tompkins County

Luann Meyer
Barton & Loguidice

Thomas Outerbridge
Circular Services

Charlie Porter
GreenSheen Paint, Inc.

Andrew Radin
PaintCare

Melissa-Jean Rotini, Esq.
Westchester County

Debra Smith
SWANA-NYS, Broome County

Kathryn Walker
NYCSMM

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act Provides the Most Realistic Path Forward to Improve Local Recycling

New York's local governments need meaningful legislation to address an impending waste crisis and provide relief in managing product packaging and paper, which now account for approximately 44% of the municipal solid waste stream.

While the State has established ambitious waste reduction goals, municipalities cannot realistically achieve those objectives under the current structure of the recycling system without stable funding, producer participation, and meaningful systemic reform.

For decades, local governments have operated and maintained a recycling system capable of capturing nearly 75% of packaging and paper materials generated by households. Yet the reality is that we are recovering less than half of those materials, and **statewide recycling rates have remained largely stagnant for more than a decade** despite evolving product design, shifting material streams, and advancements in recycling technology.

Municipalities have already done much of the foundational work necessary to support a modern recycling system.

Local governments have:

- built collection infrastructure,
- developed recycling programs,
- invested in education and outreach, and
- adapted to years of commodity market disruption and changing policy expectations.

However, municipalities alone cannot continue absorbing the financial and operational burden of managing an increasingly complex packaging stream while expecting dramatically improved recycling performance.

Without stable funding and meaningful producer responsibility, local recycling programs will continue struggling to substantially reduce disposal volumes or capture additional recoverable material.

The current system places the overwhelming responsibility for managing packaging waste on taxpayers and ratepayers, despite local governments having next to no influence over the materials entering the marketplace.

While no legislation is likely to fully satisfy every stakeholder or perfectly resolve the complex challenges associated with waste management in New York, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) **represents an opportunity for local governments to modernize and stabilize recycling programs, reduce taxpayer exposure, and make measurable progress toward the State’s long-term waste reduction goals.**

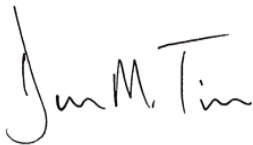
We are concerned that any amendments altering the proposed reimbursement structure risk undermining the financial support intended for local governments.

Under the current framework, municipalities will retain responsibility for recovering non-packaging paper products and newspaper, or approximately 25% of their recycling programs. Reductions or changes to reimbursement allocations could shift costs back onto taxpayers and weaken the fiscal stability the legislation is designed to provide.

Additionally, public and private recyclers are likely to experience unintended fiscal and operational impacts from PRRIA. The existing recycling system is already fragile, having adapted to years of market volatility and policy shifts. Any further changes or modifications may erode the very infrastructure this legislation depends upon to succeed.

The New York Product Stewardship Council supports advancement of PRRIA if the integrity of the reimbursement framework remains committed to delivering meaningful, predictable support to local governments and does not inadvertently destabilize the recycling system it seeks to strengthen.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. Timm
NYPSC Chairperson

