



## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

### *EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT*

**S.1185 C– KAMINSKY**

**(CURRENTLY NOT SAME AS)**

**A.5801 - ENGLEBRIGHT**

**An Act** to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing the extended producer responsibility act.

#### **Background**

New York State is suffering from a growing solid waste and recycling crisis. Recycling markets in China and elsewhere have closed their doors to the U.S., forcing us to manage our long-standing solid waste problems. As a result, municipal recycling costs have skyrocketed, recycling programs have been reduced or shuttered, and our environment and health are suffering from pollution.

An estimated 40% of NY's municipal solid waste is composed of product packaging and paper products (e.g. plastic containers, steel cans, plastic film, glass bottles, cardboard). Unfortunately, less than half of this waste is being recycled properly. Instead of being recycled, much of this waste is ending up as litter in our communities, shipped to landfills, or burned in incinerators. It is estimated that New York municipalities will pay an extra \$80 million to process recyclable materials in 2021.

#### **Justification**

Currently, manufacturers bear no responsibility for disposing of packaging and printed paper waste they create. Large brands have externalized the cost of collection, transportation, sorting, and processing of waste onto our municipal recycling programs and local taxpayers. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) would require manufacturers to take responsibility for their products throughout their entire product life cycle, by bearing the cost of proper recycling and responsible disposal of packaging and printed paper (newspapers and magazines are exempt). *Not only does this provide relief to taxpayers, but it also serves as an incentive for producers to minimize packaging materials, improve recyclability, and reduce the toxicity of their products.* EPR policies have existed in Canada and the EU for decades and resulted in recycling rates upwards of 90%.

Adopting EPR for packaging and printed paper will make New York State a leader in addressing the nation's solid waste crisis, while reducing waste, improving recycling, saving taxpayers money, creating green jobs, and benefiting our shared environment in New York State.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS  
S.1185C / A.5801 - Extended Producer Responsibility Act**

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*CCE is an 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment*

May, 2021