



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT

PART RR (S.8008 / A.9008) OF BUDGET

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

Background

NYS is suffering from a growing solid waste and recycling crisis. From rural upstate communities to New York City, and throughout our suburbs, local recycling programs in every part of the state are struggling to survive as costs have skyrocketed. In 2020, it was estimated that local governments and recycling system ratepayers had to spend \$80 million to keep local recycling programs alive.

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.

Currently, producers 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.

Justification

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) would require brand owners 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. Not only does this provide relief to local governments and 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%.

CCE is grateful that Governor Hochul has included an EPR policy in her executive budget proposal, and we look forward to working with the Governor and the legislature to ensure the policy in the final budget provides maximum benefits to our environment, local governments, and waste reduction. EPR is urgently needed to address an untenable solid waste and recycling crisis and put New York on a successful path to implement waste sector recommendations of the State's Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan to combat the climate crisis.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
Part RR (S.8008 / A.9008) - Extended Producer Responsibility Act

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

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