



SUPPORT

A. 5322/S. 4246 (Glick/Harckham)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting the packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act; and the state finance law, in relation to creating the waste reduction and reuse infrastructure fund

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 5322/S. 4246 (Glick/Harckham,), which would enact the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act.

Product packaging and paper products (PPP) waste has grown dramatically in volume with the rise of e-commerce. The responsibility for recycling this waste is currently borne by municipal governments and taxpayers, and the cost of doing so has increased in recent years due to changes in the global recycling market. The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would shift the burden of recycling products back to the producer, similar to product stewardship programs that are already in use in New York for electronic waste paint, pharmaceutical drugs, and carpets. Successful waste reduction programs create financial incentives for producers to minimize the amount of waste they produce in the first place and use more easily recyclable materials in production.

A.5322/S. 4246 would require producers of paper and packaging waste to take financial responsibility for the recycling of their products, either by funding existing municipal recycling programs or by creating a new recycling system. Producers would be incentivized to minimize waste and maximize their use of recyclable materials, and the legislation would also set minimum standards for the use of post-recycled content in production of paper and packaging. This would improve New York's recycling rate, divert materials from landfills, ease financial burdens on municipal recycling programs. For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of A.5322/ S. 4246.

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