Testimony of Eric Brown  
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before the  
Environment Committee  
March 11, 2019

HB-7295, AN ACT CONCERNING A RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR PAPER AND PACKAGING AND REQUIRING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GOALS.

CBIA opposes this bill.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association (“CBIA”) appreciates this opportunity to register our opposition to the above referenced bill.

HB-7295 seeks to circumvent the 2018 conclusion of the Consumer Packaging Task Force as well as last year’s General Assembly, that moving forward with an extended producer responsibility (“EPR”) program for Connecticut, as is proposed by this bill, is not advisable for Connecticut.

Without relitigating all the issues involved and the discussions that occurred, we refer you to the task force’s report and recommendations, which includes 8 tangible recommendations to advance the goals of solid waste reduction with respect to consumer packaging and related materials. Instituting an EPR program in Connecticut is not one of them. In fact, Addendum 1 of the report states the following:

“Supporters of extended producer responsibility (EPR) for consumer packaging offer three main arguments: by making manufacturers “responsible” for their packages, recycling will increase; packages will be designed to be more easily recyclable and less toxic; and local governments will be relieved of the burden of paying for collecting and processing recyclables. A super-majority of the experts on the Task Force agrees that EPR would not achieve any of these three goals.”

Accordingly, CBIA respectfully urges this committee not to move forward with HB-7295.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for your consideration of our position.