

Bumpen, Robin

From: Donald R. Droppo Jr <dondroppo@curtispackaging.com>
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Bumpen, Robin
Subject: Solid Waste Task Force

Task Force Members,

My name is Don Droppo, Jr. I'm the President and owner Curtis Packaging in Sandy Hook. We have proudly manufactured luxury packaging (specifically folding cartons made from paperboard) since our establishment in 1845. We manufacture cartons for global iconic brands such as Titleist, Lindt, Estee Lauder, Brown Forman, Elizabeth Arden, Jim Beam and many more. We are proud to be a very environmentally responsible company. In fact, we were the first printing and packaging company in North America to be:

- 100% Renewable Electricity
- 100% Carbon Neutral
- FSC / SFI Certified
- Zero waste to landfill facility

In short, we care for and are committed to, the environment. We recently completed a \$2.5M C-PACE project supported by the CT Green Bank where we installed solar panels on the roof, installed new HVAC compressor's, converted to Natural Gas and switched all of our lighting (inside and out) to LED's. These are all voluntary actions. The bottom line.....it's the right thing to do. It is a way for us to stay competitive in a challenging state. We need to be efficient, creative and strategic to survive in CT.

We are members of the Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC) and for many years, were active members of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC). Part of being a good corporate citizen is making decisions on triple bottom line thinking: People - Planet - Profits. This strategy is embedded into everything we do at Curtis.

I fully appreciate the efforts of reducing waste. I can assure you that for decades we've employed "right size" packaging initiatives, thus eliminating as much waste as we can. In our world, packaging serves many purposes. The package needs to ensure that its contents arrive in the consumers hands safely. That protection is critical. Another is the ability for the product manufacturer to market and brand the product. The box is the silent sales person on the shelf. And finally, the boxes often time educate the consumers on how to use, apply, eat, drink, etc. the product.

Packaging is vitally important. Most companies who we domestically manufacturer for are very cost conscious and won't tolerate packaging waste. Often times, products that are that are arriving from off shore have many layers of protective packaging because they are fragile or need to weather long transit times on cargo ships, etc.

As a business owner in CT, we face *many* challenges. Having an expanded EPR program for packaged products would add unnecessary cost to our business, grow the state's unbalanced payroll and challenge the retailers / distributors. Sadly, the taxpayers would ultimately be picking up the tab. Through the ERP management, companies like Curtis would become less competitive, encounter layoffs, etc.

I feel the solution is through voluntary, market specific actions. At Curtis, we've changed the way we view all waste and now call them "PPA's" or post production assets. Consumers need to be educated on how to properly recycle or dispose of the packaging. All of us at Curtis hope the committee understands the big challenges and unnecessary costs that EPR deflects to CT manufacturer's.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
DD

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