

I have been asked to take in testimony and weigh in on this matter with an understanding of government at the state and local level, as well as business and economics.

I will start by saying that I believe that more effective recycling of packaging is something we should continue to strive for. This will be an issue that will take on even more importance with our evolving economy and increasing online ordering and delivery. However, it appears that CT already does better than most when it comes to this. Many businesses are already working hard to achieve greener footprints and competition forces them to do this.

While EPR is an interesting idea, I see it as a monopoly on the recycling industry through taxing consumers indirectly by collecting fees from the producers to accommodate the monopoly. These producers are going to pass these added expenses on to consumers, they have no choice. I believe this will also be a job killer in many industries. Something we can absolutely not afford in this state. Monopolies do not innovate and are never good for business or jobs.

Further, the model in BC is still in its infancy and not relatable to our demographics in CT. Our problems with recycling tend to be in the cities, where there are more transient populations and non-compliance. As a resident of Hartford, I believe there need to be more education and compliance efforts in the cities. I also believe a deposit program of some sort on packaging would encourage compliance just like it does for bottles.

Simply put, I believe we should encourage compliance through education and incentives for end users, not by taxing them and monopolizing the recycling industry.

Thank you, Dave

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