[**DATE**]

Honorable Carl E. Heastie

Speaker, New York State Assembly

188 State Street

Legislative Office Building, Room 932

Albany, New York 12207

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins

President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader, New York State Senate

188 State Street

Legislative Office Building, Room 907

Albany, New York 12207

RE: Support for the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S.4246-B/A.5322-B)

Dear Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

My name is [**NAME**] and I am the [**TITLE**] of [**AGENCY/ORGANIZATION**].

Municipal recycling programs are on the brink of failure after years of financial strain. For the last several years, as global commodity markets have collapsed and expenses to collect and process recycling have increased, local governments have been forced to pay into an antiquated program flooded with materials that we cannot recycle. There exists but one viable solution: Enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act to establish an extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging.

**I am writing to respectfully request your commitment to passing S.4246-B (Harckham)/A.5322-B (Glick) this year to fix New York’s fragmented recycling system and build an equitable, financially sustainable program that does not burden taxpayers.**

Despite our collective best effort, recycling rates have stagnated at less than 20% for more than a decade. This low performing system not only fails to keep up with the State’s environmental goals but also comes at a tremendous expense to local governments. Enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act will save New York local governments an estimated $250 to $300 million each year while simultaneously expanding access to recycling for all state residents, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and tripling the current recycling rates.

New York is past due for sensible policy that can modernize recycling and align with our climate objectives. Engaging manufacturers in the end-of-life management of their packaging has been proven to substantially increase recycling rates, reduce contamination, create green jobs**,** deliver substantial taxpayer savings, and promote waste reduction through ambitious yet achievable standards. Four states – Maine, Oregon, Colorado, and California – and over 40 counties in Europe and Canada have already enacted packaging EPR laws, many of which have been in place for more than 35 years and track recycling rates as high as 80%. We have an opportunity now to set a new course for New York, where the recycling rate is just 18%.

The need for a new recycling approach has never been clearer. For [LOCAL GOVERNMENT], the time to act is now.

**I respectfully urge you to support the enactment of S.4246-B (Harckham)/A.5322-B (Glick) during the 2024 Legislative Session.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]

cc: Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz