

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the Enactment of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling**
6 **Infrastructure Act (S.1464/A.1749) with the Addition of Printed Paper**

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8 **WHEREAS**, New York State faces an imminent waste management crisis, with the
9 state’s largest landfill set to reach capacity in 2025, remaining landfills projected to have
10 only 16 years of capacity, and municipalities struggling to maintain recycling programs
11 due to increasing costs; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, over 860,000 tons of potentially recyclable materials are trashed annually
14 in New York State due to confusion about what is recyclable and a lack of proper
15 infrastructure; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, implementing comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
18 legislation for packaging and printed paper would provide multiple benefits to
19 municipalities and residents, including:

- 20 • Providing approximately \$300 million in annual cost relief to local governments
21 and taxpayers;
- 22 • Creating dedicated funding for recycling infrastructure investments;
- 23 • Establishing consistent statewide standards for recyclable materials to reduce
24 consumer confusion;
- 25 • Incentivizing producers to design packaging that is more recyclable and contains
26 more recycled content;
- 27 • Prohibiting toxic chemicals in packaging, including PFAS, phthalates, and heavy
28 metals;
- 29 • Boosting recycling rates from the current 18 percent to over 70 percent, as
30 demonstrated in other jurisdictions with EPR;
- 31 • Reducing contamination in recycling streams to improve material quality and
32 marketability; and
- 33 • Creating green jobs in collection, processing, and manufacturing with recycled
34 materials; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, five states have already enacted packaging EPR laws, and such programs
37 have been successfully implemented for decades throughout Canada and Europe,
38 achieving recycling rates as high as 78 percent; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA),
41 S.1464 (Harckham)/A.1749 (Glick), would establish an EPR program for packaging in
42 New York State and should be expanded to include printed paper given its significant
43 contribution to municipal recycling costs and material volume.

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45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
46 Counties (NYSAC) commends Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Deborah

1 Glick for their steadfast leadership in sponsoring the Packaging Reduction and
2 Recycling Infrastructure Act; and

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges Senator Harckham and
5 Assemblymember Glick to amend this legislation to include printed paper in recognition
6 of its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and municipal recycling
7 costs; and

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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Senate and Assembly to pass and
10 the Governor to sign the amended PRRIA during the 2025 Legislative Session; and

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12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
13 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
16 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the New
17 York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed
18 necessary and proper.