

February 13, 2023

Representative Judy Aron, Chair
House Environment and Agriculture Committee
107 N Main St
LOB 303
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 253 – Establishing a Commission to Study Extended Producer Responsibility – Support

Dear Chair Aron and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express our support of HB 253. The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) is the only trade association that represents the entire supply chain of manufacturers of plastic products and packaging, employing nearly 1 million workers nation-wide. As the 6th largest manufacturing industry in the United States, our members are firmly committed to manufacturing products that meet the environmental, social, and business needs of consumers, while also recognizing the need for industry to play a pivotal role in initiatives such as extended producer responsibility (EPR) and those affecting the environment. Our organization and our members support a well-crafted producer responsibility program.

The commission created by HB 253 could help lay the groundwork to allow the State to pursue an effective EPR program. While this legislation does not outwardly state to whom the council will be consulting with, it is our hope that members of the plastics industry will be included, as the expertise and guidance offered by such manufacturers would prove to be invaluable insight.

As previously mentioned, PLASTICS fully supports the fact that manufacturers play an important role in being good stewards of the environment, which is why our industry implements sustainable materials management strategies and promotes concepts that consider the entire lifecycle of a product. Through our own commitment to sustainability, we work with our members to help them achieve their sustainability goals, such as zero net waste at their facilities and increased use of recycled content in their products.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. PLASTICS advocates for the responsible recycling, reuse, and recovery of all plastics products. America has a responsibility to modernize and expand its recycling infrastructure and the plastics industry stands ready to do its part to support and implement fair and reasonable funding mechanisms. I want to applaud this committee for its attention to sustainability and offer our team and the insights of our members as resources as you deliberate the best ways to move forward with such important public policy.

Sincerely,

Danielle Fortunato
Regional Director, State Government Affairs
Plastics Industry Association