

**Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**

Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248



## Dear Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie,

We urge you to bring the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, Assembly bill 1749, to the Assembly floor for a vote.

This is a transformational bill that will save tax dollars, protect our health and our environment. It has passed the Senate two years in a row and is now on the Assembly floor, calendar number 68.

This legislation would take critical steps toward solving New York’s solid waste crisis by:

- + Requiring companies to reduce their single-use packaging by 30%
- + Ensuring that the remaining packaging is either reusable or truly recyclable
- + Ensure that incineration and “chemical recycling” are not considered recycling
- + Phase out 17 of the most toxic chemicals and substances from being used in packaging, including PFAS, bisphenols, and heavy metals
- + Shifting the financial responsibility for dealing with packaging waste from taxpayers to the large companies releasing the packaging into the market

New York has 10 polluting garbage incinerators and twenty-five municipal solid waste landfills, with many slated to close in the next few years. Other than this bill, there are not comprehensive proposals to REDUCE the amount and the toxicity of waste produced in New York.

Residents of low-income communities and communities of color are harmed the most by single-use packaging. They suffer from air pollution, toxic landfill leachate, high asthma rates, reduced property values, and an overall diminished quality of life. Packaging releases toxic microplastics into our food, increasing the public health risk for stroke, heart attack, infertility, cancer, dementia, and early death.

While the companies producing this packaging are creating these expensive negative impacts, they are not being held accountable for the associated costs. Instead, taxpayers and local governments are paying the price for plastic packaging.

New Yorkers deserve a packaging system that protects our communities, safeguards public health, and reduces plastic pollution at its source. We urge you to bring the **Packaging Reduction and Recycling Act (Assembly Bill A1749)** to a vote as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

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