

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Governor Bob Ferguson  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504

**Re: Support for SB 5284 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging**

Dear Governor Ferguson,

AMERIPEN—the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment—is writing to express our support for Senate Bill 5284, which contains the Recycling Reform Act (Lovelett) and requests that you sign this article into law. AMERIPEN greatly appreciates the extensive work that has gone into SB 5284, and the balanced approach it takes to address a very complex issue. AMERIPEN supports packaging extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that represents shared responsibility for packaging recovery and recycling to more effectively improve the entire recycling system—this legislation represents such an effort.

AMERIPEN is a trade association dedicated to improving packaging and the environment. We are the only material-inclusive packaging association in the United States representing the entire packaging supply chain. This includes materials suppliers, packaging producers, consumer packaged goods companies, retailers, and end-of-life materials managers. We have several member companies who have a manufacturing presence in the state and many more who import packaging materials and products into the state. The packaging industry in Washington supports 42,679 jobs and accounts for more than \$13.5 billion in total economic output.

Packaging plays a vital role in Washington, ensuring the quality of consumer goods as they are manufactured, shipped, stored, and consumed, protecting the health and safety of Washingtonians who consume, use and handle those products. Packaging has value and none of it belongs in landfills, roadsides, or waterways. We need to recover it to be recycled and reused, and no one knows better how to do that than the AMERIPEN members who design, supply, produce, distribute, collect, and process packaging. Our members are driving innovation for environmentally responsible packaging with recovery and recyclability in mind.

AMERIPEN is committed to well-designed EPR. The packaging EPR legislation in SB 5284 represents a strong framework that aligns with a growing consensus on EPR policy across the country, aligning key definitions and goals with new legislation in states such as Minnesota and Maryland. Washington already has one of the United States' highest existing recycling rates, and this bill will further support recycling and composting infrastructure. We will continue to work with Washington policymakers, relevant government agencies, and packaging value chain partners through the regulatory process in Washington, should SB 5284 be signed, to realize

reliable, effective, and efficient packaging recovery and recycling systems that support cost effective consumer access, sortation, reprocessing, and end markets, including end market development and technology. Key elements of SB 5284, that we support, include:

- 1. Fair Reimbursement Formula:** Packaging producers will begin paying for recycling costs in Washington starting at 50% in 2030, 75% in 2031, and 90% in 2032 and beyond, while service providers must also register and meet performance standards for reimbursement based on competitive bids, and local governments will continue to be engaged partners.
- 2. Producer Involvement:** A producer responsibility organization (PRO), managed by subject matter experts who are packaging producers, will establish a process and reimbursement model for core recycling functions for residents and limited other entities.
- 3. Fair Performance Goal Process:** Under the SB 5284 framework, producers can remain focused on core activities without the burdens imposed by EPR laws in other states, such as artificial timelines for arbitrary recycling targets; mandates to fund recycling for massive commercial operations that can manage their own recycling costs or landfilling; and unrelated mandates around packaging composition.

If you sign this legislation into law, AMERIPEN stands ready to guide producers and others in the packaging value chain through the implementation of the new law over the next several years. Please feel free to contact me directly at [robk@ameripen.org](mailto:robk@ameripen.org) or Edwin Borbon at [eborbon@serlinhaley.com](mailto:eborbon@serlinhaley.com) with any questions on our support for this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Keith  
Membership and Policy Director