PACKAGING EPR IN NEW YORK

Dawn M. Timm
NYPSC Board Member
Director: Niagara County Division of Environmental/Solid Waste
The issue...

- The combined impact of China’s National Sword, poor commodity values, stagnant recycling rates and policy constraints have exposed the flaws in our recycling programs. Municipalities struggle to manage end-of-life supply chain they did not create and had no input in ensuring would have a market for recycling have.

The impacts...

- Estimated at over $59.3 million in NY. A 50% increase from the $40 million spent in 2019, financial uncertainty...$70+/ton to process recyclables, Recycling costs dangerously close to disposal rates.
The vision of S.1185C (Kaminsky)...

- Includes all primary, secondary and tertiary packaging intended for residential market and online sales.
- Municipalities can maintain control of their recycling systems or elect a turnover to PRO
  - Covers households, parks, schools and “existing” customers.
- Municipal cost to manage end-of-life consumer packaging is internalized in product purchase price. PRO’s to set “eco-modulated” fees to incentivize reduction and design for environment
- Labeling on covered materials will indicate recyclable and non-recyclable, Producers, in collaboration with municipalities, will create accessible and comprehensive recycling instructions
- Program funding is managed by not-for-profit stewardship organizations organized by brand owners. PROs must provide written plans, goals and results to DEC for review and approval
  - PROs must establish an advisory group comprised of key stakeholders (local governments, haulers, recyclers, etc.)
  - 3 year clock starts upon passage, 1 year to complete Needs Assessment
- Create incentives for brand owners to:
  - improve packaging design, reduce the amount of materials used, and improve recyclability.