Sample Student Letter to New York State Legislators

A Template for New York Students

Students: Please personalize this letter. Add your own experiences, concerns, questions, or recommendations. The goal is to make your own voice heard—not simply to copy a form letter. Click to find your assembly person, find your senator, or find your congressional representative.

Subject: Student Perspective on Packaging Waste and Extended Producer Responsibility

Dear Senator/Assemblymember **[LAST NAME]**,

My name is **[YOUR NAME]**, and I am a student at **[SCHOOL NAME]** in **[CITY/TOWN]**, New York. I am writing as a member of **New York Students for Responsible Packaging**, a statewide, student-led initiative focused on educating young people about packaging waste, recycling, sustainability, and environmental policy.

As a student and member of my community, I am interested in how New York can address the growing challenges associated with packaging waste and recycling. I recently learned about **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** and legislation being considered in New York that could change how packaging is managed. The New York Senate Bill S1464 and S1460 aim to reduce single use packaging through the "packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act" and establish a framework for Extended Producer Responsibility for designated products.

EPR is a policy approach that would place greater responsibility on producers for the costs and management of packaging after consumers are finished with it. I believe it is important for students and other members of the public to understand both the potential benefits and the challenges associated with policies like EPR.

[ADD 2–4 SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR OWN PERSPECTIVE.]

For example, you might discuss:

- What you have observed about recycling or packaging waste in your community or school.
- Why reducing waste matters to you.

- What you learned while researching EPR.
- A question or concern you have about the proposed legislation.
- Why you believe students should have a voice in environmental policy.

I am writing to ask that you **[SUPPORT / OPPOSE / CONSIDER CHANGES TO / LEARN MORE ABOUT]** legislation concerning Extended Producer Responsibility and packaging in New York.

In particular, I hope you will consider **[ADD YOUR SPECIFIC REQUEST, QUESTION, OR RECOMMENDATION]**.

I understand that legislation can have complex environmental, economic, and practical consequences, and I appreciate the responsibility that comes with making these decisions. I encourage you to consider perspectives from students, consumers, municipalities, businesses, environmental organizations, and other members of our communities as you evaluate these policies.

I would also appreciate hearing your perspective on **[ADD A QUESTION FOR YOUR LEGISLATOR, IF DESIRED]**.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the perspective of a student in your district and for your service to our community. I believe young people should have opportunities to learn about public policy and participate respectfully in decisions that will affect our future.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]
[GRADE / SCHOOL, OPTIONAL]
[CITY/TOWN], NY
[EMAIL, OPTIONAL]

Learn more about New York Students for Responsible Packaging and Extended Producer Responsibility at EPRFootprint.org.