



DELIVERING QUALITY AND CHOICE.  
ADVOCATING RESPONSIBILITY.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

July 29, 2010

Summer in Maine is usually very quiet for legislators. However, in mid-August, Portland will host the 50th anniversary of the Northeast Region Council of State Governments (CSG) meeting. This will bring elected officials together from all the New England states to share issues and discuss initiatives on a variety of topics.

Included in the three day program of workshops and events is a forum to discuss “product stewardship;” entitled: *Learn How Business and States are Turning Today’s Trash in to Tomorrow’s Products*. This workshop will highlight the new policy developments, challenges and opportunities for states. Maine has been a leader in the collection and recycling programs for consumer products and packaging. We can look to the Bottle Deposit Law as an example of a “green” initiative that reinforces the shared responsibility for removing beverage containers from the waste stream.

We have long heard the adage: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle as the “3 R’s” for helping the environment. MBWDA believes there is a fourth “R” that should be added— Responsibility. We all have an individual responsibility to help Maine, our local communities and ourselves benefit from a healthier and greener lifestyle. MBWDA embraces the Responsibility theme and hopes that dialog with CSG attendees will further improve the possible state policy ideas for consideration.

— Cheryl Timberlake  
*Executive Vice President*