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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 30 April 2021 12:58
To: wastecomments
Subject: DRS PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Submission - Composite MaterialsConcerns

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Hello.

Congratulations on the proposed introduction of A DRS Scheme in Ireland. It is an excellent idea which will help reduce our use of single use plastics and promote sustainability and the circular economy.

I note however that at least one Irish produced brand has already introduced a new form of composite packaging so as to be excluded from the proposed deposits as drafted. I would suspect that other producers are likely to follow suit and at pace. My concern is that the Tipperary product is a composite tetrapak product which uses a hard plastic cap, a hard plastic shoulder and includes an internal plastic lining.

I would be fearful that all producers will move to avoid participating in the DRS scheme if such products are excluded from the scheme. I would ask the Department to include these containers so as to preempt a sideways shift by brands to a different form of container which will prove to be just as problematic as single use plastics. These containers have dubious recycling credentials and amount to little more than 'green-washing' by brand owners. It is a huge loophole through which producers will rush headlong and negate the purpose of the DRS scheme.

If they are included in the DRS scheme they will at least be returned / disposed of by members of the public. If these products are not included, there will be a huge increase in the volumes of these composite products into Ireland and as there will be no incentive for the public to return these products and they will quickly become the new ubiquitous litter thrown away on our public beaches, polluting our oceans and public parks. We will simply be replacing Plastic Bottles with Composite Bottles.

If you are not familiar with the evasive approach being adopted by producers to circumvent a deposit return scheme, I would refer you to your local SuperValu.

<https://shop.supervalu.ie/shopping/tipperary-still-pure-irish-water-500-ml-/p-1702808000>

Regards
[REDACTED]