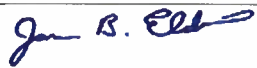


**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

	ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of elected public employee:	James Eldridge
Title/ Position	State Senator, Middlesex and Worcester
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts State Senate
Agency address:	Massachusetts State House 24 Beacon Street, Room 511-C Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	617-722-1120
Office e-mail:	James.Eldridge@masenate.gov
Write an X to confirm each statement.	I am filing this disclosure because: ☒ I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and ☐ A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.
	ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	I will be attending The Extended Producer Responsibility Learning Exchange (the "EPR Learning Exchange"), hosted by the Circle Ocean Plastics Leadership Network (the "OPLN").
Describe your participation in the activity.	I have been invited by the OPLN to attend this event.
Date, time and location of activity.	September 15-17, 2026 Burlington, VT
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	My participation in the EPR Leadership Exchange will provide me with the opportunity to engage with legislators, industry representatives, and other stakeholders on issues related to new extended producer responsibility laws and new deposit return system laws. Specifically, my participation will allow me to engage in discussion forums where I will hear and learn from individuals and organizations designing, implementing, and operating deposit return system laws. Further, my attendance at this leadership exchange will inform my work as a Senator in the areas of waste reduction and recycling and support future policymaking in those areas for the benefit of the residents of the Commonwealth.
	TRAVEL EXPENSES

Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	The Ocean Plastics Leadership Network
Address of person or organization.	78 Woodland Ridge Rd Kerhonkson, NY 12446
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	<i>Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:</i>
Transportation:	<i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i>
Lodging:	<i>Overnight accommodations.</i> \$690.34 (2 nights)
Meals:	<i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i> \$64.00 (in addition to meals covered by Admission fee)
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i> \$1,250.00
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i> \$22.00 (per person cost of supplies to be used at the EPR Leadership Exchange)
Total:	\$2,026.34
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	☐ I have attached the relevant itinerary. ☒ I have attached the relevant agenda.
For the exemption to apply, check off <u>both</u> statements.	Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that: ☒ Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND ☒ Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.
Employee signature:	
Date:	September 15, 2026

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.

The EPR Learning Exchange

The Learning Exchange is built around the **Top Questions Shaping 2027–28 U.S. Packaging EPR and Deposit Return**.

Ahead of the conference, policymakers shaping 2027–28 circular policies will submit their most pressing implementation questions. Circle will synthesize these questions into thematic Discussion Forums, organized under four high-level themes that follow the lifecycle of EPR—from policy development through implementation and future evolution.

Each Lab begins with a brief framing conversation before participants move into facilitated Discussion Forums centered on the highest-priority questions submitted under that theme. Participants will rotate between Discussion Forums, ensuring every legislator and policymaker has the opportunity to engage directly with producers, PROs, recyclers, local governments, NGOs, and technical experts from across the packaging value chain.

The Learning Exchange is designed to give policymakers dedicated time to explore their most important implementation questions through candid, cross-stakeholder dialogue with the people designing, implementing, and operating these systems every day.

Legend: ● Circle / Learning Exchange track · ● See Change programming · ● Shared break

Tuesday, September 15

● Circle / Learning Exchange track

6:00 – 8:00 PM: Legislator Welcome Dinner

8:30 – 10:00 PM: Open Reception for All Participants

Wednesday, September 16

● **Welcome Breakfasts & Registration**

8:00–9:00 AM

Introductions & WTF Sessions

9:15–10:30 AM

Learning Exchange Lab #1 — Setting the Scene

10:45 AM–12:45 PM · 2 hr

Framing, superpanel, and participant introductions. No Discussion Forums.

Schedule

10:45–11:00 AM | Framing the Moment: Circle × Atlantic Packaging (15 min)

Leaders from Circle and Atlantic Packaging open the two days by framing the moment and the room itself: a rare, neutral space where the people writing circular policy and the people putting it into practice sit together to listen and shape what comes next.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM | What We Wish You Knew: A Candid Exchange (60 min)

A moderated "superpanel" you won't find anywhere else, bringing three policymakers into dialogue with three leaders from across the packaging value chain. This session goes past talking points to the lived experience behind circular policy: what it actually takes to write it, and what it actually takes to make it real. Together they surface the perspectives that will shape 2027–28 policy development and implementation.

- *From the States (policymakers)*: the real story behind the policy, the pressures and priorities that drove it, the complexities unique to their state, and the questions they're still working to answer.
- *From the Value Chain (brands & packaging companies)*: what implementation actually looks and feels like on the ground, including the day-to-day realities, the friction, and what brands are learning in real time.

12:00–12:45 PM | Introductions & Learning Goals (45 min)

Following the superpanel, participants introduce themselves and share where their state's legislation currently stands and what they're hoping to take away from the two days.

Circle introduces how the Discussion Forum rotations will function.

 **Lunch (& Brain) Break**

12:45–1:45 PM

● Learning Exchange Lab #2 — Considering & Building a Bill

2:00–4:15 PM · 2 hr 15 min

Discussion Forums — 3 forums, 3 rotations. Every participant attends all three.

	Forum	Focus
A	Understanding the Policies	How packaging EPR, deposit return, and recycled content requirements relate to one another
B	Data & Outcomes	What matters to stakeholders beyond environmental impact — recycling markets, jobs, municipal costs, affordability — and what the public will accept
C	Adapting Policy to State Context	Borrowing structure from other states; consistency vs. local specificity

Schedule

2:00–2:05 PM | Welcome to the Miller Center (5 min) Alex Hernandez, President, Champlain College (venue host)

2:05–2:10 PM | Set the Stage (5 min) Frame the theme and introduce the three Discussion Forums.

2:10–2:45 PM | Discussion Forum Rotation 1 (35 min) Participants divide into facilitated Discussion Forums focused on the highest-priority policymaker questions.

2:45–3:20 PM | Discussion Forum Rotation 2 (35 min) Participants rotate to a second Discussion Forum.

3:20–3:55 PM | Discussion Forum Rotation 3 (35 min) Participants rotate to the third Discussion Forum.

3:55–4:10 PM | Group Debrief (15 min) An open, moderated conversation connecting insights across stakeholder groups and highlighting any new questions that arose. *Facilitated by Circle*

4:10–4:15 PM | Experience Preview (5 min) Get the wheels turning — a short introduction to the next day's Experience to get the gears clicking and conversations starting. *Led by Dr. Marcus Eriksen*

The Learning Exchange Experience

4:15–5:20 PM · *Facilitated by Circle*

Time to digest & continue discussions to close Day 1. First, an interactive activity that puts participants inside the clocks governing circular policy: how long development actually takes, how long implementation actually takes, and what happens when those timelines don't line up. Then a live demonstration of **Circle Guide**, Circle's new interactive policy tool, with time to test it firsthand and shape how it develops — feedback gathered here goes directly into the build.

Storytelling Session

5:30–6:15 PM *Hosted by See Change*

See Change South End Block Party

6:30–9:30 PM *See Change programming*

Thursday, September 17

Drop-In Experiences — Optional

8:00–9:00 AM

Learning Exchange Lab #3

9:15–11:00 AM · 1 hr 45 min

Discussion Forums — 2 forums, 2 rotations. Every participant attends both.

	Forum	Focus
A	Stakeholders & Interests	Who needs to be at the table and the interests in play
B	What is Recycling?	How states define responsible end markets today and the impact for future legislation and rulemaking

Schedule

9:15–9:20 AM | Set the Stage (5 min) Frame the theme and introduce the two Discussion Forums.

9:20–10:00 AM | Discussion Forum Rotation 1 (40 min) Participants divide into facilitated Discussion Forums focused on the highest-priority policymaker questions.

10:00–10:40 AM | Discussion Forum Rotation 2 (40 min) Participants rotate to the second Discussion Forum.

10:40–11:00 AM | Group Debrief (20 min) Discussion Forum facilitators share key insights and identify emerging themes across stakeholder perspectives.

Learning Exchange Experience — Building Bridges

11:00 AM–12:30 PM · Led by Dr. Marcus Eriksen

A hands-on session exploring the complexities and opportunities of material use and performance under policy mechanisms like packaging EPR. Working with a range of packaging materials, participants get a tactile sense of how these materials actually perform, what their end-of-life looks like, and how eco-modulation shapes the choices producers make. Policy and materials experts are on hand throughout. *[Experience one-pager pending]*

Lunch (& Brain) Break

12:35–1:30 PM Main See Change venue

Learning Exchange Lab #4

1:45–3:45 PM · 2 hr

Discussion Forums — 2 forums, 2 rotations. Every participant attends both.

	Forum	Focus
A	What goes in legislation versus rulemaking?	What belongs in statute vs. rulemaking, and which decisions are hardest to change once live
B	Cross-Border & Sub-State Ideation	Coordination across state lines (corridors, compacts, existing platforms) and county/municipal pilots and opt-in structures

Schedule

1:45–1:50 PM | Set the Stage (5 min) Frame the session and introduce the legislator ideas up for discussion.

1:50–2:35 PM | Discussion Forum Rotation 1 (45 min) Participants divide into facilitated Discussion Forums to workshop legislator ideas.

2:35–3:20 PM | Discussion Forum Rotation 2 (45 min) Participants rotate to the second Discussion Forum.

3:20–3:45 PM | Group Debrief (25 min) Closing thoughts & Q&A.

Closing Session

4:00–4:20 PM

Golden Happy Hour & Snacks

4:30–6:00 PM

Submitted Questions by Forum

Lab #2 —

Forum A · Understanding the Policies

- What's the relationship between packaging EPR, deposit return, and recycled content requirements? — *Common policymaker question*

Forum B · Data & Outcomes

- Beyond environmental impacts, what matters to stakeholders weighing circular policy: domestic recycling markets and material reliance as a national security concern, jobs, litter and tourism, municipal costs? — *Rep. Eric Bell (GA)*
- What is the impact of these policies to consumer affordability? — *Rep. Steve Owens (MA)*
- What is the public willing to accept? — *Rep. Michelle Ciccolo (MA)*
- As we reach implementation, are there any obvious learnings/items to avoid that were challenges for the public and other legislators? - *Rep. Ted Philips (MA)*

Forum C · Adapting Policy to State Context

- How do states determine which existing EPR model is the best fit for their own context? — *Sen. Rick Lopes (CT)*
- How should legislation balance statewide consistency with state-specific priorities? — *Common policymaker question*
- How do you get EPR legislation to complement deposit return/recycling refund bills if not passed together? — *Sen. Benjamin Brooks (MD)*

Lab #3

Forum A · Stakeholders & Interests

- With so many stakeholders in play, how do I identify which state and national value chain voices need to be brought to the table? — *Del. Jackie Glass (VA)*

Forum B · What is Recycling?

- How are states defining responsible end markets today? What should future legislation and rulemaking require? — *Common policymaker question*

Lab #4

Forum A · What goes in legislation versus rulemaking?

- What belongs in statute, and what decisions are best left to rulemaking and implementation? — *Common policymaker question*
- How do we write legislation that facilitates system management, oversight and implementation to achieve desired policy objectives without over complicating the bill? — *Rep. Michelle Ciccolo*
- Legislators hand rulemaking over to the regulator & advisory council/board, but are brought in to help stakeholders understand the intent of the legislation. What are the challenges that stakeholders are now facing in rulemaking? — *Sen. Malcolm Augustine (MD)*
- How can the state government best support/set up municipalities to implement EPR policies? — *Sen. James Eldridge (MA)*

Forum B · Cross-Border & Sub-State Ideation

- Is there opportunity for coordination in circular policy across geographic corridors? — *Common policymaker question*
- Could existing platforms be used for cross-state coordination, like compacts? — *Common policymaker question*
- Is there a role for sub-state circular policy pilots? Can they scale — county by county, or municipality by municipality on an opt-in basis — into a statewide approach? — *Rep. Eric Bell (GA)*

Timing Notes

Structure within each Lab

Rotation length is consistent **within** each Lab so participants rotate cleanly. It varies **between** Labs because the fixed blocks differ in length.

Lab	Block	Set Stage	Rotations	Debrief	Other	Coverage
Lab #2	135 min	5 min	3 × 35 min	15 min	5 min President's Welcome +	All 3 forums

					5 min Experience Preview	
Lab #3	105 min	5 min	2 × 40 min	20 min	—	Both forums
Lab #4	120 min	5 min	2 × 45 min	25 min	—	Both forums

Every rotation is at or above the 35-minute floor. Every debrief falls within the 15–30 minute range. Every participant attends every forum.

