

I SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT IT, WHEN I SAW IT AT
MARDEN'S
surplus & salvage

To: Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

My name is Craig Burgess and I am the General Manager of Marden's. I am here today to testify **against LD 2104.**

Marden's is a family owned, small business with 14 retail locations and nearly 800 employees, all in Maine. Marden's offers family friendly, full time hours, health and disability insurance, a 401k retirement plan, profit sharing, a generous employee discount and paid time off. We are not a retailer that just cares about short term profits. We have a very long-term view of business and value the State of Maine that we all live in.

For those of you who haven't shopped Marden's, we are a unique business. We buy and sell surplus, salvage and closeout deals. **Almost all of our products don't come through standard distribution channels and most aren't in original packaging.** As an example, in 2017, we were in Texas, Florida and even Puerto Rico buying salvaged goods. Marden's has been called the "ultimate recycler" by many as we recover and return to Maine great brand name retail products that must be quickly removed from other retail stores and warehouses. We remove the products often packing them in large bins leaving most of the original packaging behind. This approach already minimizes the landfill and recycling program burden in Maine.

Why We Oppose LD 2104:

- **Under LD 2104, Marden's would by default become the "Producer" of the products we sell and would assume all administrative and financial responsibilities to track, account for and remit fees under LD 2104. Assuming both the administrative burden and the recycling fees would be both technically and financially impossible. We would be forced to close or to move our business out of Maine leaving many of our nearly 800 employees out of work.**

If you need any additional information to assist you in making a quality decision regarding LD 2104, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Craig R. Burgess
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