

Victoria Simon  
York  
LD 2091

My name is Victoria Simon. I am a resident of York, Maine, the Chair of the York Recycling Committee and Volunteer Advisor to the York High School Eco Club Plastic Reduction Task Force. I have been actively working to reduce single-use plastic for several years; leading York's successful effort to ban single-use plastic carry-out bags (2015) and the Polystyrene Foam Food Container Ordinance (2019).

I initiated, along with the Eco Club Task Force, the creation of an Ordinance that would restrict the sale and distribution of single use plastic dining ware in York's shops and restaurants. That Ordinance is currently being reviewed by a town committee appointed by our Select Board to receive input and consider the impact on the town's restaurants.

In my personal life, I refuse single-use packaging and products. I carry a spork and water bottle and refillable coffee mug and bring my own container for left-overs when I dine out.

I am writing in support of LD 2091: An Act to Allow the Reuse of Food Containers by More than One Customer. Waste has increased by almost 50% in Maine. Making single-use materials takes energy and resources. For that item to only be used once and then thrown away is not sustainable. The production and incineration of plastic alone produces more than 850 million metric tons of greenhouse gases. That is the same as the emissions of 189 five-hundred-megawatt coal power plants. This bill would close the loop, reduce waste, save land fill space, improve health, and protect natural resources for future generations.