

SUZ OKIE

*56 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
203.856.1447*

January 22, 2024

Sen. Ingwersen, Senate Chair
Rep. Pluecker, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Support for LD 2091

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry:

My name is Suz Okie and I am a resident of Portland, Maine, eager to share my support for LD 2091 "An Act Regarding Businesses and Consumers Use of Returnable, Reusable, and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages, and Nonfood Items".

I write to you as a concerned citizen, an aspirational entrepreneur, and a co-founder and co-lead of Reuse Portland, a volunteer coalition of local businesses, environmental organizations, municipal staff, and community members who share a vision of transforming Portland and South Portland into a "reuse community." From my vantage point, the passage of LD 2091 is of the utmost importance for three reasons:

First, the passage of this bill will enable the reduction of packaging and single-use plastics — this will offer the dual benefits of decreased carbon emissions and decreased plastic pollution in our state and on our beautiful shoreline.

Secondly, It will enable new business models and economic opportunities within the state of Maine. As an aspirational entrepreneur, actively exploring reuse business opportunities, I can assure that the passage of this bill would open new doors and opportunities not just for the small business I aspire to own, but for employment and economic development across the state. (It could additionally reduce the costs and burdens associated with waste management, landfills, and incineration for municipalities and businesses alike.)

Lastly, the passage of this bill would remove barriers for cities and communities to embrace reuse systems. My community's volunteer coalition (Reuse Portland) has aspirations to bring reusable packaging to food vendors within our city — such a system would not only enable the aforementioned environmental and economic wins, but could also create pride, citizen-engagement, and, above all, community. Without the passage of LD 2091, our aspirations would unfortunately be stunted by regulatory barriers.

With all this in mind, I implore you to pass LD 2091. Thank you for your consideration.

Suz Okie
Portland, ME
LD 2091

Suz Okie
January 22, 2024

Sen. Ingwersen, Senate Chair
Rep. Pluecker, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Support for LD 2091

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry:

My name is Suz Okie and I am a resident of Portland, Maine, eager to share my support for LD 2091 “An Act Regarding Businesses and Consumers Use of Returnable, Reusable, and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages, and Nonfood Items”.

I write to you as a concerned citizen, an aspirational entrepreneur, and a co-founder and co-lead of Reuse Portland, a volunteer coalition of local businesses, environmental organizations, municipal staff, and community members who share a vision of transforming Portland and South Portland into a “reuse community.” From my vantage point, the passage of LD 2091 is of the utmost importance for three reasons:

First, the passage of this bill will enable the reduction of packaging and single-use plastics — this will offer the dual benefits of decreased carbon emissions and decreased plastic pollution in our state and on our beautiful shoreline.

Secondly, It will enable new business models and economic opportunities within the state of Maine. As an aspirational entrepreneur, actively exploring reuse business opportunities, I can assure that the passage of this bill would open new doors and opportunities not just for the small business I aspire to own, but for employment and economic development across the state. (It could additionally reduce the costs and burdens associated with waste management, landfills, and incineration for municipalities and businesses alike.)

Lastly, the passage of this bill would remove barriers for cities and communities to embrace reuse systems. My community’s volunteer coalition (Reuse Portland) has aspirations to bring reusable packaging to food vendors within our city — such a system would not only enable the aforementioned environmental and economic wins, but could also create pride, citizen-engagement, and, above all, community. Without the passage of LD 2091, our aspirations would unfortunately be stunted by regulatory barriers.

With all this in mind, I implore you to pass LD 2091. Thank you for your consideration.