

To: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Isabelle Rogers

Date: January 24th, 2024

Re: Testimony in support of LD 295, An Act to Ensure Accurate Recyclability Labeling for Plastic Containers and Plastic Packaging Material

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and honorable members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Isabelle, I am a resident of Starks, and am a youth activist with Maine Youth Action. I am writing to support LD 295, An Act to Ensure Accurate Recyclability Labeling for Plastic Containers and Plastic Packaging Material.

Much of our plastic packaging is being mislabeled as recyclable when in reality, it isn't. This inaccurate labeling is frustrating for consumers as it should not be our responsibility to distinguish the actual recyclability of an item.

The majority of plastic production is plastic packaging and 46% of plastic ends up in the landfill with only 9% of plastics getting recycled. Plastic waste also accounts for 85% of marine waste. Having accurate labeling on containers and packaging would help the Maine public gain the truthful recyclability of these items and in turn, help start us on the path to more responsible packaging for our future.

For these reasons, I urge you to please vote "ought to pass" on LD 295.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Rogers