

To: Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Date: 01/24/24
Re: LD 295

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, Members of the Committee

I am writing to you as a resident of North Haven Island in Penobscot Bay, as a mother, grandmother and as a farmer. As you know, plastic packaging presents a huge problem for the our communities, for the state, for the ocean. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 295.

Our town must ship off island all the waste that is created by the excessive packaging that is burdening our transfer station. The costly nature of that removal is burdensome to the local year round residents, and to the employees who have to deal with plastics of all kinds. Recycling seems a good answer but with the untenable situation requiring staffing to sort through endless plastic containers and packagings looking for proof of recyclability, it is onerous. Plastic that purports to be recyclable with false chasing arrows creates even more trouble.

Intentionally removing unnecessary unrecyclable plastic packaging will have wide ranging benefits. As a farmer who used to be able to add seaweed as mulch to my garden soil on this rocky piece of land,. I can no longer use it as there is too much plastic bound up in the strands to even begin to remove it. We know that small particles of plastic, which does not degrade but only gets smaller, are often brought up into the vegetables we eat. It becomes part of our food chain. That is unhealthy for humans and for livestock.

Plastics are derived from fossil fuels and are part of the continued addiction our consumer based society has to that industry we have been subsidizing for at least a century. That industry alone is responsible for the bulk of green house gas emissions that are causing so much damage world wide- coming home to roost on our coast only two weeks ago.

This bill actively encourages recycling business development in Maine, a major step towards cleaning up the mess the fossil fuel industry has caused.

For my grandchildren who hope to fish and farm on the coast of Maine in the future, LD295 is a valuable step towards making that possible for them. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 295.

Respectfully submitted,

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