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LD 69

Members of the Committee,

In 2020, I testified before this committee concerning this issue, and I would like to submit here the text of my testimony at that time:

"When I go to the store now, I see everywhere products that are unnecessarily encased in plastic, a substance that is just a fossil fuel in another form. As the oil and gas industry finds that it is selling less and less of its product, it is turning its raw material into simply more and more plastic, and we can no longer recycle that plastic. So our towns pay higher and higher tipping fees and we pay higher property taxes to pay for those tipping fees. They are once again making us pay for their waste."

Since then, the elimination of plastic film grocery bags is one of the few ways Maine has made progress on this issue. This bill would prefer that we not move forward, but go backwards instead! Is that your definition of progress?! If so, I am appalled.

It is quite apparent to me that the people of Maine have had very little trouble adapting to the use of reusable bags when they shop. If you deny that, you are simply echoing the fossil fuel industry.