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LD 69

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for your work to help protect and maintain Maine's environment. I am deeply concerned about the effort to repeal the law that restricts the use of single-use plastic bags and urge you to vote against repealing this important law that leads businesses to purchase more sustainable alternatives to single-use bags.

I am a frequent cyclist on roadways all over southern Maine and, unfortunately, see extensive amounts of trash along the side of the roadways. Since the passage of the law banning single-use plastic bags, I have observed a sharp decrease in this particular kind of litter, which used to be pervasive. Revoking this law would like lead to a re-emergence of this type of waste and, accordingly, a higher amount of plastic in our natural spaces and waterways.

Plastic bags can take decades to decompose, and when they do, often disintegrate into microplastics that proliferate in our environment. Since the passage of this law, businesses have been able to make sustainable swaps for single-use plastic bags. Because viable alternatives are readily available and are already being successfully used by businesses all over the state, it does not make sense to move Maine backwards on reducing our reliance on single-use plastics by reversing this law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.