

To the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

RE: LD 1122 – An Act to Amend the Law Banning Single-Use, Carry-Out Bags

Since I first came to Maine in the late 1950s, I have always thought of it as a place with a beautiful, healthy natural environment and a place where peoples livelihoods and recreation are intimately intertwined with the healthy environment. Maine people have always seemed proud of this. We are lucky to live in this incredible place and tourists flock here year round to enjoy it. Single-use carry-out bags tossed out along our roadsides and ending up in streams, woods, lakes and along shorelines are a terrible eyesore and go against this strong identity of our beautiful state. Also when plastic single-use bags end up in the environment they can choke wildlife or break down into micro-plastics which can pollute water or be mistakenly eaten by larval fish, directly harming our commercial and recreational fishing industries.

When Maine enacted the ban on single-use bags I was so proud and friends from out of state were envious and quite impressed with Maine. I do a lot of walking and spend a lot of time in nature. I've always picked up litter when I can. Since the ban went into effect I've noticed less trash along the roadsides and in all natural areas. People don't toss a reusable bag out the window of their car. Please do not repeal this important law so in keeping with the character of Maine.

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