

**Testimony before the
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Nora Bosworth
Conservation Law Foundation
March 26, 2025**

RE: Testimony in Opposition to LD 69 –An Act to Repeal the Law Restricting the Use of Certain Plastic , Paper and Single-use Bags

Good morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Nora Bosworth, and I am a Staff Attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). CLF’s mission is to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in Maine and throughout New England.

CLF opposes LD 69, which seeks to repeal the current restrictions placed on single-use bags.

A comprehensive report released in 2024 by multiple organizations confirms that restrictions on single-use bags work: they reduce litter and promote reusable bags, lowering plastic waste.¹ **Coastal communities** like Maine **particularly benefit** from these restrictions, as plastic bags often end up in waterways, harming marine life and water quality.²

This same repeal was tried in 2023, but the Retail Association of Maine and the Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association both *opposed* it, preferring a **consistent statewide policy** over a patchwork of local ordinances.³

Maine is rich in natural beauty, and no resident wants to see plastic bags floating in rivers and lakes, washed up on shores, or strewn along roads and sidewalks. With limited landfill capacity and a growing plastics crisis, policies that increase waste—rather than reduce or divert it—are both misguided and counterproductive. The current restrictions on single-use bags should be strengthened, not repealed. We urge this committee to **oppose** LD 69.

¹ Louis Sokolow, Frontier Group, *Plastic Bag Bans Work*, E-S 5, Jan. 2024, available at <https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Plastic-Bag-Bans-Work-January-2024.pdf>

² *Id.* at E-S 4.

³ Kevin Miller, Maine Public Radio, *Legislature Rejects Bill to Repeal Plastic Bag Ban*, April 5, 2023, available at <https://www.mainepublic.org/politics/2023-04-05/legislature-rejects-bill-to-repeal-plastic-bag-ban>



Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to LD 69.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Bosworth
Staff Attorney, Communities and Toxics
Conservation Law Foundation
nbosworth@clf.org