

Testimony by **Richard Atlee** of Southwest Harbor in response to  
**LD69: An Act to Repeal the Law Restricting the Use of Certain Plastic, Paper and Single-use Bags**

**Summary: Ought not to pass**

Senator Tepler and Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

As someone who was involved in the work leading up to the passage of 38 MRSA §1611, I would like to make the following points supporting a position of "**Ought not to pass**" on LD69:

1. **Whereas**, the danger to the health of Maine residents presented by the growing body burden of micro- and nano-plastics has been solidly demonstrated by an ever-increasing body of research, and
2. **Whereas**, prior to the passage of 38 MRSA §1611 the evidence of environmental accumulation of single-use carry-out bags was impossible to ignore, and the problems posed to recycling operations by such plastic films, and
3. **Whereas**, the subsequent reduction in the presence of these bags in our environment has been clear, therefore
4. Until proper research and analysis has demonstrated that this reduction has not reduced the threat to Maine's health and environment, 38 MRSA §1611 should not be repealed.