

March 26, 2025  
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Maine State Legislature  
Augusta, Maine

**RE: LD1122 *An Act to Amend the Law Banning Single Use Carry Out Bags***

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and esteemed members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD1122

I am Lucy Baker, and I am an Environmental Policy major at Colby College from Winchester Massachusetts. I chose this major because from a young age, when I first learned about climate change, I felt a lot of anxiety. Numbers and headlines in the news paint an extremely bleak future for my generation to grow towards, and I felt (and still feel!) so helpless confronted with a crisis that is so incomprehensibly massive. I chose to pursue this area of study in Maine because not only have my happiest outdoor memories and most profound moments of connection to nature taken place in Maine, but I have always seen Maine as a leader for the country in environmental policy. My perception of Maine ever since I was a child is that it is a place where people care about each other and the environment and make an active effort to protect it and set an example for the rest of the country.

The exemption of thicker plastic bags from bans on single use plastic bags would completely undermine the intention of these bans to decrease plastic bag waste. From a simplistic point of view, exempting 4 mil plastic bags seems to be the furthest from effective at protecting our environment. Replacing single use plastic bags, which were banned due to their wastefulness, with **thicker plastic** bags, that, in practice, are not often reused, does not make any sense to me at all. This is not a practice that represents the Maine that I am proud to reside in and wish to remain in and raise a family in.

Between 19 Shaw's locations, 3 Market Basket Locations, and a number of other retailers distributing these bags, 12 million 4 mil plastic bags are distributed annually. Trying to imagine this enormous number re-ignites the anxiety I felt as a child learning for the first time about all the ways we as humans continue to thoughtlessly contaminate our environment.

I hope the solution here is clear - if we can take these small steps towards a more sustainable future, it is our responsibility to our earth and our community to do so. I strongly urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thoughtfully Submitted,

Lucy Baker