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LD 69

Good afternoon members of the committee. My name is Jess, and I am a resident of Portland and a concerned citizen against LD69. Just the other day I was proud to be from Maine when shopping in NH and my one item was immediately and without question put into a plastic shopping bag at checkout. It was so automatic because there is no law to de-incentivize it there. Multiplying that moment by the amount of purchases happening everyday makes an astounding difference in the amount of plastic bags entering the waste stream. Having spent many hours cleaning up our coast as a Surfrider volunteer and Beach Guardian, I have been happy to see that there are not many thin plastic bags on the beaches these days. I believe that this is a direct result of the plastic bag ban and it would be detrimental to our environment, and ultimately our own health, to repeal this law. I believe that reducing dependence on single-use bags, especially plastic bags, is a crucial step towards a more sustainable future for our planet and our state.

Single-use plastic bags are a major source of pollution, both on land and in our waterways. They pose a serious threat to wildlife, who often mistake them for food or become entangled in them.

Plastic bags take hundreds of years to decompose, and in the meantime, they continue to pollute our environment. They also contribute to the growing problem of plastic pollution in our oceans, where they can harm marine life and disrupt ecosystems.

I urge you not to support LD69, to allow the plastic bag ban to remain in place. By reducing our reliance on single-use plastic bags, we can make a real difference in protecting our planet for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.