

Kerry Read
Paris
LD 69

Chairpersons Senator Denise Tepler , Representative Victoria W Doudera and members of the committee,

As a concerned citizen, mother, grandmother, and advocate for the health of our bodies and our ecosystem I oppose LD 69.

Ingestion of plastic is endangering the survival of a multitude of species. Plastic is in our food, in our water and in our blood.

I walk my dog along the banks of the Little Androscoggin in South Paris, daily. For years I have picked up bags full of trash along the way, doing my small part to keep the plastic out of the river. Before the ban on single use plastic bags went into effect, my bags were always full of discarded bags. I shudder to think of all the bags that I wasn't able to retrieve that washed into the river from just this one mile strip of embankment. Multiply that by all of the stream banks, ponds, lakes and ocean shoreline and the scope of damage being done to us and our environment is overwhelming. There is still a lot of trash along my path, especially now that the snow melt is revealing the winter's harvest. But I now have to remember to bring my own collecting bags. Since the ban on single use bags went into effect, I can't depend on finding discarded bags along the way. That is a huge step toward the health of our water, fish, birds, wildlife, soil; our bodies and our future.

I urge you, for the sake of all our grandchildren, vote "ought not to pass on LD69