

### **Commentary on LD 1423**

Provided here by Gregory D'Augustine MD  
39 Beau Drive, Greene, ME 04236  
207-650-7028

Greetings to the hard working members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

My name is Gregory D'Augustine, and I comment today as a private citizen living in the town of Greene. I also serve the citizens of the state of Maine as a member of the Public Health Committee of the Maine Medical Association, as well as by being a member of the board of the non-profit environmental organization "Maine Rivers". While my comments do not represent official views of these bodies I firmly believe they would be strongly supportive of my offering because the burden of waste entering the state has both environmental and health impacts that concern both organizations.

I am opposed to LD 1423 for several reasons.

My sense of this complicated bill is that it seeks to revise previously enacted LD 2146 (Stewardship program for packaging) in ways that drastically reduce the effectiveness of the original law.

Members of the committee will, I'm sure, see that the purposes of the original bill were basically three: First, to reduce the financial burdens of municipalities dealing with solid waste disposal; Second, to reduce the amount of solid waste entering the state, and Third, to encourage manufacturers to use more readily recyclable materials in their packaging.

All three of these goals strike me as extremely desirable, and beneficial to Maine's citizens.

LD 1423 seeks to exclude a great deal of packaging from the original law. For example, packaging used by commercial and industrial customers is excluded. Other exclusions include packaging material used for pharmaceuticals, supplements, medical equipment, public health, as well as packaging for hazardous and flammable products.

It remains unclear to me how exclusion of all of these forms of packaging makes the original law “improved”. If one defines “improvement” as “making life better for manufacturers who pass disposal costs along to municipalities” my opposition to this bill just gets stronger and stronger.

It seems to me that the original LD 2146 represents an excellent measure which will improve life in our state in a variety of ways, as mentioned above. Please use your power to preserve the intent and substance of the law, and vote “No” to LD 1423.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gregory D’Augustine MD