



GoGo Refill
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22 January 2024

Testimony Prepared for the committee on
Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
Re: LD2091

Presented by Laura Marston, Owner GoGo Refill

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, my name is Laura Marston, I'm here as a constituent from Cape Elizabeth and a small business owner. I am here to show support for LD 2091.

Since a New Year's resolution in 2017 to stop using single-use plastic water bottles, I have dedicated my life to reducing plastic pollution. In 2019 I opened GoGo Refill in South Portland, and in 2022 we expanded to Brunswick. We're Maine's first zero-waste store. We are a store that helps people reduce their waste & their use of single use plastic by offering bulk refills of home and body products and encouraging our customers to reuse and refill their packaging. We're not talking about food, like in this bill, but essentials like dish soap, hand soap and laundry detergent. In our first 4 1/2 years in business we helped thousands of people reduce their waste and we've prevented over 200,000 plastic packages from even being purchased in the first place. That is 200,000 plastic packages that our tax payers & municipalities don't have to pay to dispose of, that's 200,000 plastic packages that won't end up in the environment & the oceans.

I tell you all of this not to brag, but to demonstrate that there's a legitimate and growing market of consumers in Maine who care about their packaging waste. I'm one of those consumers - I myself have looked for a meal service - as a 2-business owner household and 2 kids, the convenience would be amazing - but my commitment to not using single use plastic keeps me from enjoying that convenience.

As a business owner, you know that every expense makes a dent in your profit, and buying disposable packaging that is used once and thrown away is no different. This bill would allow these small businesses to invest in reusable packaging that they buy once, and use forever. Saving them money, and reducing their waste.

LD 2091 supports a shift away from disposable packaging, which is important for a more sustainable future - and an area where Maine is already a leader. Supporting the circular economy, and inviting more businesses in, is in line with our groundbreaking EPR for packaging law, and an area where Maine can continue to grow employment and impact.

I understand that there might be resistance to this idea, like concerns about food safety and sanitation. Fortunately, we can look to the examples of other states and cities that have allowed similar reusable packaging in food service and we can see that there isn't a credible risk of food borne illness. Thank you for your time & attention to this important matter.