



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
MAINE RELAY 711

Arthur L. Bell

14 Atlantic Reach
Yarmouth, ME 04096
Arthur.Bell@legislature.maine.gov
Cell: (207) 415-1217
Residence: (207) 846-0148

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Testimony of Representative Art Bell, before the Environment & Natural Resources Committee, advocating ***“Ought to Pass”*** for:

LD 1122: An Act to Amend the Law Banning Single-Use Carry-Out Bags

Good morning, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished colleagues of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee. My name is Art Bell, and I represent House District #103, Yarmouth.

Maine, like a number of other states, has an unfortunate loophole in its plastic bag ban law. YES, we have banned single-use plastic bags, but the cashier still asks “paper or plastic?” and if you answer plastic, you can purchase a thicker “reusable” plastic bag. This has led to the unfortunate situation where the consumer chooses the plastic bag thinking they will reuse the bag, but the evidence is that this is NOT the case. The thicker “reusable” bag simply enters the waste stream after one use.

Maine simply needs to close this loophole much like California did and truly ban the plastic shopping bag forever. (1)

(1) Joseph Winters, California Inspired a Wave of Plastic Bag Bans – With an Unfortunate Loophole, GRIST (Oct. 11, 2024).