



*Senator Eloise Vitelli
Senate Majority Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515
Home (207) 443-4660*

***Testimony of Sen. Eloise Vitelli supporting
LD 514, “An Act To Establish and Promote a System of Safe Disposal of
Expired Marine Flares”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
March 24, 2021***

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I represent Senate District 23, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and the Town of Dresden in Lincoln County. I am before you today to support LD 514, An Act To Establish and Promote a System of Safe Disposal of Expired Marine Flares.

The question of what to do with these expired flares is one that has persisted for many years. Marine flares must be replaced every 42 months, leading a large number of flares that need to be safely disposed of. The flares and the chemicals in them are dangerous and are hazardous to human health and to our environment. Our current solutions for disposing of them are piecemeal and difficult to find, leaving flares all around our state, in our homes and businesses, unsafely breaking down.

Since certain boats are required to have these flares on board, there should be an avenue for those flares to be properly disposed of. LD 514 creates a streamlined process for disposing of these flares and removing them from our environment. I am grateful to Rep. McCreight for reintroducing this bill this session, and I hope the committee will choose to support it. Thank you for your consideration.