



Maine Municipal  
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association  
In Opposition to

*LD 39 - An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban*

And

*LD 108 - An Act To Improve Public Safety by Repealing the Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bag  
Ban*

And

*LD 8 - An Act To Repeal Maine's Single-use Plastic Bag Law*

February 22, 2021

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environmental and Natural Resource Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LDs 39, 108 and 8 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipalities across Maine began enacting ordinances to ban the use of single use plastic bags in retail establishments operating within their jurisdictions in 2015 as demanded by their residents and sending a clear message to retailers and legislators that change was necessary. As a result, Maine retailers were brought to the table to be part of the solution and create uniformity of expectation, fees, and enforcement.

The statewide ban preempted those municipal efforts and created understandable standards and recycling expectations that residents and retailers could expect regardless of where they shopped.

Single use plastics are increasingly made of thinner material that has no ability to be reused or recycled. This material ends up in a land fill or blowing in trees as they are often ruined before the groceries are unpacked.

The solid waste stream is funded largely by property taxpayers while it is contributed to by a wide variety of users, visitors, producers and retailers. The plastic bag ban is an example of cradle-to-grave waste policy that works, rather than a constant focus on the middle and end of the waste stream where the flow of waste is impossible to stop.

Municipal officials ask that you do not undermine previous efforts to address the outcome residents have demanded from local leaders. If you chose to move forward with any of the proposed legislation in these bills, then municipal officials ask that you remove the preemption from municipal ordinance so our communities can decide what waste they are

willing to pay to manage or fully fund the costs to property taxpayers for managing single-use plastics.