



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony  
In Support of

### **LD 911 “An Act To Prohibit the Reception of Foreign Waste Plastic in Maine Ports”**

Good Morning Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee On Environment and Natural Resources. I am Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham and I am here to present **LD 911 “An Act To Prohibit the Reception of Foreign Waste Plastic in Maine Ports”**.

This bill prohibits a port on navigable waters in the State of Maine from receiving from a vessel plastic waste originating from another jurisdiction or country.

According to Maine Public Radio, 5,000lbs of plastic waste was spilled in Penobscot Bay on December 2, but it was kept private until a man walking his dog on Sears Island six days later noticed chunks of plastic that had washed up on the shore. He alerted local journalist Ethan Andrews, who put photos of the plastic waste on Facebook.

That is when I became aware that the ludicrous practice of shipping shredded plastic trash from Northern Ireland to Penobscot Bay was occurring. The amount of plastic that washed upon the shores, and its nearly 3,000-mile journey from Europe, was perplexing to many Mainers.

The shredded plastic from Northern Ireland that was destined to be burned at an Orrington waste-to-electricity plant came here as part of trial run that delivered about 500 tons of material to Maine over a five- or six-month period.

It’s time for this experiment to end. We don’t need to continue the practice of using Maine as a dump for trash from outside of our state. We have enough trash of our own, without importing trash from elsewhere. Receiving trash from Europe is especially ludicrous considering the cost and carbon output to ship it 3,000 miles across an ocean. Europe needs to handle its own plastic problem, and literally stop dumping it in Maine.

Maine is well known for our pristine environment and clean waters. We are an environmental destination for people from all over the world. Our cold clean water provides some of best tasting and sustainably managed fisheries in the world. Our boating, kayaking, and sightseeing opportunities are second to none.

Too much damage has already been done. The risk to our waters and bays is too high, and we have more than enough plastic waste already without importing trash from foreign countries.

I hope you will stop the practice of dumping foreign trash on Maine's shores and support LD 911 with an OTP vote. Thank you for your consideration. I will answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham