

Sarah Dennison  
Bangor

Hi Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I spoke last year, I was a waitress, and now I'm a grad student at UMaine. I'm back again in support of LD1541 and opposition to bill LD1471. There are a lot of people getting paid by big corporations to speak here and to block real recycling change, and I'm speaking on behalf of Mainers that want a clean environment. Maine is known to many as vacationland, and many people who live here choose it because it has plenty of natural beauty. Yet we need to think long-term, we don't want our trash adding up and spoiling nature. Not recycling is like littering. We need to be resourceful with our materials. We need it to be easy to recycle everything. As a person who recycles often, I'm frustrated by the number of items that are not recyclable and add to Maine's expanding landfills. We need a recycling bill that requires corporations to be responsible with their products and ensure that they will not end up in landfills. Many towns can't recycle because they can't afford it. We need to make it as easy as possible for towns to recycle, and LD1541 has made that possible. A lot of these corporation talking heads are going to say that their businesses will be environmentally friendly anyways, but LD1471 doesn't cut it. It's designed ways for corporations to cut corners and stop funding recycling programs. Maine needs recycling programs that are financially reliable. LD1471 has a bunch of ways that corporations can get out of funding town recycling programs, and not designing recyclable products. It's a loophole bill. We need a recycling bill that works for Maine, not for corporations. We need a recycling bill designed to protect Maine's environment.

Thanks for your time,  
Sarah Dennison