

Testimony from Plastic Free Peninsula
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
May 10, 2021: 9:00 a.m.

Testimony **FOR:** [LD 1541: An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money](#)

The Committee for a Plastic-Free Peninsula is a civic organization made up of volunteers that support elimination of single use plastic bags, polystyrene foam food containers and plastic straws on the Boothbay Peninsula.

Last year, we surveyed 50 restaurants in our town about their recycling efforts, and without a hitch, every one of them said garbage was their biggest problem. When serving customers, they are eliminating plastic plates, utensils, single-plastic bags and straws, but they don't have time to stop and recycle every piece of waste packaging that comes with food and supply orders.

We are also watching our local waste station in Boothbay struggle under a mountain of packaging waste, deal with the increased cost of recycling (now 60% more costly than disposing of regular garbage) and wondering when they will decide to cancel our recycling program altogether. This would be a disaster for a community that has spent years learning and practicing a safe recycling process and would set us back in our efforts to be more environmentally conscious of our waste.

LD1541, a law adopting ***Extended-Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging*** would substantially reduce the impact of corporations flooding the state of Maine with plastic packaging. It will require big corporations to reimburse towns for the cost of managing wasteful packaging materials. That will save taxpayer money, increase recycling rates and hopefully encourage corporations to create new packaging designed to reduce waste.

In other words, the bill will reduce the bulk and reduce the burden!

We enthusiastically support the passage of LD1541 and encourage lawmakers to vote for this new and improved bill.

Helen Meserve
Newagen, ME
Volunteer
Plastic Free Peninsula

Committee for Plastic Free Peninsula members: Chair Peg Helming, Nancy Adams, Doreen Dun, Star Perkins, Abby Jones, Bonnie Ginger, Robin Jordan, Helen Meserve

Helen Meserve
Plastic Free Peninsula

Environment and Natural Resources Committee May 10, 2021: 9:00 a.m.

Testimony from Plastic Free Peninsula

FOR: LD 1541: An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money

The Committee for a Plastic-Free Peninsula is a civic organization made up of volunteers that support elimination of single use plastic bags, polystyrene foam food containers and plastic straws on the Boothbay Peninsula.

Last year, we surveyed 50 restaurants in our town about their recycling efforts, and without a hitch, every one of them said garbage was their biggest problem. When serving customers, they are eliminating plastic plates, utensils, single-plastic bags and straws, but they don't have time to stop and recycle every piece of waste packaging that comes with food and supply orders.

We are also watching our local waste station in Boothbay struggle under a mountain of packaging waste, deal with the increased cost of recycling (now 60% more costly than disposing of regular garbage) and wondering when they will decide to cancel our recycling program altogether. This would be a disaster for a community that has spent years learning and practicing a safe recycling process and would set us back in our efforts to be more environmentally conscious of our waste.

LD1541, a law adopting Extended-Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging would substantially reduce the impact of corporations flooding the state of Maine with plastic packaging. It will require big corporations to reimburse towns for the cost of managing wasteful packaging materials. That will save taxpayer money, increase recycling rates and hopefully encourage corporations to create new packaging designed to reduce waste.

In the end, the bill will reduce the bulk, reduce the burden!

We enthusiastically support the passage of LD1541 and encourage lawmakers to vote for this new and improved bill.

Helen Meserve Newagen, ME
Volunteer
Plastic Free Peninsula

Committee for Plastic Free Peninsula members: Chair Peg Helming, Nancy Adams, Doreen Dun, Star Perkins, Abby Jones, Bonnie Ginger, Robin Jordan, Helen Meserve, Julie Perry, Betsy Wing