

Mary Owen  
Augusta

Members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Mary Owen. I live in Augusta, Maine. I am writing to ask your support of LD 1541, An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs.

The time is long overdue to share recycling costs with the companies who produce, sell, and profit from their products. Only then are we likely to see a decline in unnecessary, excessive, nonrecyclable packaging. Most plastic – even what we meticulously sort for the recycle bin – ends up buried in a landfill, where it will take hundreds of years to decompose while potentially leaking pollutants into the soil, air, and water. Every day millions of pieces of plastic find their way into our rivers and oceans. We know the problem. It has been around for decades. The time is now for government, industry, and consumers to work together on the solution. This bill will help us get there.