

Valerie Peacock
Bar Harbor Town Council

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in favor of LD 1541, An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money. As Bar Harbor Town Councilor, I was happy to bring forward a resolution of support to and to receive a unanimous vote from the council in favor of LD 1541.

At about \$750,000, managing, hauling and tipping solid waste is a significant line item of our FY22 town budget. As a town councilor, I realize the town's reactive position in the middle of the process. We have little control over the amount and type of waste that is generated by our residents, tourists and businesses. While the town residents are highly committed to recycling, we know that the recycling rates are related to the types of waste we generate and the global market for recycled materials. What actually is recycled and to what extent or end use is variable and challenging to track and understand. The fact is that we are still learning how to recycle in Maine, the US and the world. As the residents of the Town of Bar Harbor bear the costs of solid waste, one path is clear and obvious: reduce the complexity and the amount of waste that is generated.

LD 1541, An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money clearly provides a path towards simplifying and reducing waste in an equitable and sustainable fashion. It redirects the cost of recycling to the producers of packaging and waste. Money given to the town could be used to further our efforts to reduce the overall waste stream and maximize recycling. Producers will be incentivised to reduce waste before it gets to our town.

I encourage you to enact LD 1541 and support our waste reduction and recycling efforts.