

Linda Shaffer
Bristol

Greetings,

It's time to do something else with material waste in this country. Maine has led the way before in dealing with trash and waste management. It's time we lead again.

We've all seen the photos and videos of landscapes and seascapes besmirched with trash, wildlife harmed and killed by stuff in the wrong places, and heard the stories of people harmed by toxic products that end up in our bodies. We know that we humans are consuming the equivalent of a credit card worth of plastic per week. Enough of the blame game, the delays, the studies - let's try something different, because the situation we're in now is untenable.

As a Maine resident who has tried for decades to do the right thing by attempting to follow the confusing and ever-changing rules for recycling, I'm disgusted by the corporations that have deviously foisted off the disposal of their increasingly voluminous and decreasingly biodegradable products and packaging onto individuals and municipalities. They've washed their hands of the problem, while greenwashing all of us with the hogwash messages on their products to "recycle responsibly".

Finally, there is a way to transform this ongoing disaster with LD 1541. The extended producer responsibility program that it proposes is based on several years of real world experience that is making a positive difference in other countries. It's a transformational idea that allows individuals and municipalities to finally work together with corporations to reduce waste. Please listen closely to what Natural Resources Council of Maine has gathered for evidence in support of this bill.

Please do not consider LD 1471, as it appears to be just a delaying tactic - the policy it outlines is not comprehensive, not viable, not transformational, and doesn't do much of anything to resolve the problem of our accumulating and non-biodegradable waste.

Please support LD 1541.

Thank you.