

andrea kimmich
Kennebunk

Dear Environmental and Natural Resources Committee Members

I am writing to encourage you to pass LD 1541 the long awaited bill which would shift the burden of properly disposing plastics from end user to producer by adding extended responsibility.

I have been actively campaigning against single-use plastics for years, as well as educating communities in managing one's recyclables responsibly. Still! I find even well intentioned people have so much to think about that they don't keep up with which plastics can be recycled, nor how to prepare them for recycling.

So much packaging is mixed-material, with plastics lining or attached to paper and/or cardboard. Often too products include several types of plastics which, when they get to the MRF render them not recyclable, with there being, for example, no time to unscrew the cap from a bottle, or eliminate the tin liner from it, or the plastic window from the cardboard box, etc. etc.

This is however something that a producer should be aware of and be asked to act on.

Decades ago, we didn't have all that packaging. It's not something we can't undo!

The planet will breathe easier, as will the country's people who are made to grapple with a problem not of their own making, but rather driven by convenience for distribution, and the all-mighty corporate dollar.

LD 1471 is a means to placate us, making us believe once again that we need to be better about recycling, but doing nothing to change the products that make recycling so impossible.

Please endorse LD 1541 which will force us to redesign product packaging as well as systems for waste management that everyone can appreciate.

Respectfully yours,
Andrea Roth Kimmich
Kennebunk, ME