The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 432 “An Act To Designate a Maine Community Litter Cleanup Day.”

This bill establishes the first Saturday in May as Maine Community Litter Cleanup Day. It forces the Governor of the State to issue a proclamation marking such occasion. During my many years as Governor I have noticed that there are around 50 commemorative days on the Maine calendar many of which seek to force me to issue proclamations.

Frankly, I think this bill is unnecessary. I do not believe that Mainers need me to proclaim a special day for them to understand that it is good citizenship to not litter, and to clean up their communities. I think that generally Mainers already do a great job of keeping their communities litter-free. This is part of the reason why our state attracts so many visitors.

If I were in favor of proclaiming special days in an effort to remind Mainers of their civic responsibilities, which I surely am not, then I would think that a Maine Community Litter Day would be best sometime in the fall before the arrival of snow and its subsequent thaw. During the thaw, litter is known to be washed away. Because of this, I do not think that that the bill is practical.

For these reason, I return LD 432 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor