

**Comments before the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
April 3, 2019**

**Re: LD 401: An Act to Preserve State Landfill Capacity and Promote Recycling
LD 524: Resolve, Regarding the Promotion of Composting**

Senator Carson, Representative Tucker, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Background

The facility, located on Municipal Review Committee (MRC) land and owned and operated by Coastal Resources of Maine, LLC, a subsidiary of Fiberight, LLC, is a state-of-the-art advanced solid waste and recycling processing plant designed to meet current market demands, increase recycling rates, achieve maximum utilization of organics, and reduce carbon emissions.

The MRC has entered into agreements with 84 Maine municipalities and regional entities, representing a total of 115 Maine municipalities, that are committed to deliver MSW to the Hampden facility.

When operational next month, the facility will process household waste and recycling from the MRC's 115 member communities. Using Fiberight technology, resources recovered from everyday waste will be processed into baled recyclables for sale on the commodities market, and upgraded to generate biogas, cellulose pulp, and plastic briquettes for the fuel and energy markets in Maine and New England.

LD 401: An Act to Preserve State Landfill Capacity and Promote Recycling

We commend the legislature for taking up the issue of excessive landfilling in the state. As local landfill capacity continues to become more and more limited it is important to address the matter before a tipping point has been reached.

LD 401 is a good starting point but raises several concerns for the solid waste industry in the manner in which it seeks to curtail the disposal of waste at state-owned landfills.

Specifically, excluding residuals that have historically been used for alternative daily cover in Maine's state recycling goals. And while, expressly limited to the state owned facilities, the failure of the state to recognize these residual materials such as Construction and Demolition debris and glass/grit, as recycling would act to:

1. further limit already scarce disposal options for these post-processed materials,
2. eliminate a viable market borne use of these residuals as beneficial use materials
3. place an unnecessary burden on the industry to find substitute recycling options for residuals in order to reach the DEP 's required 50% recycling thresholds for licenced processing facilities, and
4. discentivise the re-purposing of these materials as beneficial use.

Overall, while it should not be cheaper to landfill than process waste, it is important to note the limitations of geographic location when discussing the use of landfilling for waste disposal as some areas of the state have no other options due to distance to processing facilities and/or viable economics for transportation.

LD 524: Resolve, Regarding the Promotion of Composting

We concur on the need of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to study the feasibility of ways to promote the diversion of food scraps and other organic materials from the waste stream.

In doing so, we would also encourage the Committee to consider a needed alignment with federal guidelines to recognize the benefits of multiple recovery mechanisms in the capture and utilization of organic and food wastes that would effectively regard composting and anaerobic digestion as *complementary* activities in policy.

Maine's infrastructure is not yet at the point where it can support large scale composting operations or mandatory collection. Whether limited by geographic barriers, transportation costs, or capacity, it is important to note that a one-size fits all strategy fails to recognize these realities and places all the more importance on recognizing anaerobic digestion as an equally important piece in any state-wide organics management planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of Coastal Resources before you today

Fiberight/Coastal Resources of Maine