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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1009

AN ACT REGARDING THE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING OF FOOD WASTE

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association, in opposition to L.D. 1009.

This proposed legislation is very cumbersome and prescriptive for schools, and they do not have the staff or the room to monitor this process.

We are concerned that while the requirements of the bill would be phased in over 5 years, not all or even many school districts are prepared to eliminate all food scraps without a substantial change in operations.

Our suggestion is that rather than mandate a process, there should be voluntary efforts to reduce food waste and scraps. Out of those efforts, best practices will surface, and those practices will be more cost effective.

One solution won't fit all because food school operations differ based on the number of students being served. What will work is learning from the field.