



**Alison Sucey, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government Affairs,
on Behalf of the Maine Tourism Association**

In Opposition to

LD 1009, An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste

March 22, 2023

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Alison Sucey and I am the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government Affairs for the Maine Tourism Association. The Maine Tourism Association, a non-profit, is the state's largest tourism organization supporting members in every type of tourism business such as lodging, restaurants, camps, campgrounds, retail, guides, tour operators, amusements, and historical and cultural attractions. We've been promoting Maine and our 1500 members for over 100 years. I present this testimony in opposition to LD 1009.

While we appreciate the importance of this issue, we don't believe that the proposals set forth in this bill are the best ways to achieve the goals of dealing with food waste. We are concerned about the timeline set forth, the labor intensive requirements, the associated costs to our small businesses in both contracts and labor, and the feasibility of finding composting practitioners in certain areas of the state.

We believe that the Department of Environmental Protection should continue the coordination with the George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine and also work with this committee to further the work they have already done to develop reasonable solutions to this problem. The preferences of large food banks should also be taken into consideration to ensure that they can effectively handle the quantity and type of donations required by this bill. Further progress on food donation tax credits and food donation liability exemptions also can move Maine closer to the objectives of this bill.

I respectfully ask that you vote Ought Not To Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.