



**Senator Stacy Brenner**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207) 287-1515  
[Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov)

Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner in Support of *LD 536, "An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for the Conversion of Human Remains in Soil"*  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
April 4, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Distinguished Colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Stacy Brenner. I represent Senate District 30, which includes all of Gorham and most of Scarborough. I'm testifying in favor of LD 536, "An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for the Conversion of Human Remains in Soil."

This legislation would allow Mainers to have an alternate choice in how they wish to be buried after death. Cremation uses large amounts of fossil fuels that negatively impacts the environment, while natural organic reduction only accelerates the decomposition process that happens naturally. This process uses [one eighth of the energy](#) required for cremation, saving over one metric ton of CO2. Decomposition creates temperatures over [131 degrees Fahrenheit](#) that kills harmful bacteria, viruses and other pathogens, while also stabilizing heavy metals. As a result, the final product is safe to use on gardens and trees, providing a natural, and oftentimes comforting way for someone to return to the natural elements at the end of their life.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.