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**To:** Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**Subject:** Support for LD 1065, An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste

**Date:** 4/16/25 – 10:00am

Chairman Tepler, Chairman Doudera, and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to speak today, my name is Greg Williams, and I am the Director of Public Policy & Outreach at Agri-Cycle Energy.

On behalf of Agri-Cycle and Exeter Agri-Energy, I am sharing our support for LD 1065.

Maine is the only state in New England without a food waste law.

For over a decade, Agri-Cycle has successfully operated in other states throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic that have laws supporting food waste recycling. We have found that they encourage greater participation and drive innovation and investment.

In Maine, while many towns and businesses in the state do currently have programs supporting our climate and waste reduction goals, we believe it is time to formalize our collective commitment by passing LD 1065.

Agri-Cycle and our host anaerobic digester, Exeter Agri-Energy in Exeter, are co-located on Stonyvale Farm, Maine's second largest dairy operation, producing 8,000 gallons of milk daily under brands such as Oakhurst and Hood.

Together we have been collecting and processing food waste since the site was commissioned in 2011 and since that time we have processed **more than 500,000 tons.**

Agri-Cycle has collection assets operating all across the state, from Calais to Presque Isle to Kittery to Bethel, moving commercial and municipal food waste from client locations to Exeter, where it is processed into renewable energy.

Today, Agri-Cycle has approximately 375 client relationships throughout Maine, including supermarkets, colleges, hospitals, restaurants, school districts, municipal drop offs, food processors, and others.

We anticipate that only a small percentage of these partners will be directly impacted by LD 1065 due to the initial two tons per week threshold, but we maintain that this bill is an important step toward achieving state recycling goals and raising greater public awareness of the link between food waste and climate change.



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Landfilling food waste is a significant contributor to climate change. Once buried, it emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. At our Exeter facility, the food waste is instead converted into renewable power and exported to the ISO New England grid.

Since commissioning, we have delivered over 120,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity to the ISO grid, 90% of which has been generated from food waste feedstocks. To put that in perspective, that represents **powering roughly 20,000 home per year.**

Together, Agri-Cycle and Exeter offer 100,000 tons of capacity annually and we currently process roughly half of that, meaning we still have significant capacity to divert additional tonnage from Maine's landfills.

LD 1065, we believe, will support this cause and others aimed at bolstering the state's climate and waste reduction efforts. Therefore, we ask the committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Greg Williams

Director of Public Policy & Outreach, Agri-Cycle