

Bill Lippincott  
Hampden  
LD 1065

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bill Lippincott; I'm a resident of Hampden, site of the closed, still leaking into the streams and the groundwater Pine Tree Landfill

I am submitting comments in favor of LD 1065 An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste

I'm the former Chair of Don't Waste Maine, a coalition of people around the state advocating for responsible solid waste policies that protect the health of communities most at risk from negative impacts of landfill, incinerator, and other waste processing facilities.

We must do everything we can to reduce what ends up in the landfill.

An expansion of the Pine Tree Landfill was supposed to last around 23 years but reached capacity in less than half that time. The massive Juniper Ridge Landfill is filling up fast, which is why Casella, JRL's operator, is pushing for another major expansion.

New landfills are extremely difficult to locate, environmentally and politically, and extremely expensive to build

That is why this bill makes so much sense. The single most common material going into a landfill is food waste, making up about 24% of municipal solid waste. And once it's buried in a landfill, it's contributing to climate change by generating greenhouse gases. Landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S. The EPA found that reducing food waste is "essential" to meeting U.S. climate targets. Methane from landfilled food has 80 times the warming power of CO<sub>2</sub> in the first 20 years.

But if you can separate food "waste" out of the waste stream, it can become a valuable resource. LD 1065 prioritizes food redistribution, boosting food banks, pantries, and meal programs.

Food waste can also be composted and converted back into fertile soil that can be used for growing food

Massachusetts' food waste ban has diverted more than 380,000 tons of food waste each year, proving such legislation is effective.

Maine is the only state in New England with no food waste law.

We have a waste problem in Maine and the answer cannot be endless landfill expansions. LD 1065 is a major step to reducing landfill waste. Let's get on board with the rest of New England to get a valuable resource out of the waste stream.

Thank you for your consideration

Bill Lippincott  
Hampden, Maine