



Testimony in Support of An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of
Food Waste

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Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Victor Horton and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA).

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1065, which proposes that Maine take decisive steps to prevent and recover wasted food that is currently being disposed of.

MRRA recently received a Waste Diversion Grant through the Department of Environmental Protection to build a network of individuals and organizations to address the complex issues surrounding food recovery and recycling through donations, composting, and simply finding the best use for leftover and or wasted food.

We have started a group called the Food Recovery Council (FRC). This group is in the early stages of development and we plan to model it after a similar effort housed at MRRA sometimes referred to as the Marketing Cooperative.

The FRC is intended to be a group of organizations and individual members with the common goal to assist with solutions for the recovery, reuse, and reduction of surplus and wasted food. Our mission would be to help prevent food loss and waste through focused education, community outreach, and implementation of strategies to identify and prevent wasted food. The FRC's intent is to be a part of a larger conversation regarding surplus and wasted food, leading to a reduction of food loss and waste at every level. Participation in this council is open to anyone interested in working towards these goals.

To accomplish this, we are first looking to put together a working group to start a conversation about surplus and wasted food along with its

management across all Maine food systems. The result of these efforts would be the development of FRC to serve as a conduit for private and public groups, nonprofits, universities, and state organizations to aid the effort to limit wasted food across Maine. We believe that through these diverse partnerships, we can work together to successfully limit wasted food, providing both an economic and environmental benefit to Maine communities.

We urge the Committee to support these efforts to recover food waste and we look forward to our continued partnership with all stakeholders in the effort to fight food waste in Maine. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully submitted
Victor Horton

The Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting professional and sustainable materials management in Maine.

Established in 1984, MRRA serves over 160 municipalities through its work to provide ongoing education on waste regulations, evolving waste streams, and best practices. We also assist 60 transfer stations and recycling centers and help members find markets for recyclable materials, reinforcing Maine's commitment to resource recovery.