



April 25 2025

Senator Tepler, Chair  
Representative Duedera, Chair  
Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Subject: Support for LD 297-An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Duedera , and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

The Portland Water District (PWD or the “District”) is a quasi-municipal utility created by private and special law of the State Legislature in 1908 to provide water to the people of greater Portland. Today, PWD provides drinking water to over 200,000 people in 11 Cumberland County communities, and wastewater treatment services to six of those communities. The affairs of PWD are managed by a Board of Trustees composed of 11 members, all popularly elected by a plurality of the voters from the communities they represent. We do not have shareholders that profit from our activities and therefore our sole interest is meeting the needs of our customers.

PWD has four wastewater treatment facilities and is constructing another treatment facility to serve the North Windham area. The discharge from these treatment facilities is permitted and regulated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The communities rely on this facility to protect public health and the environment, and to enable economic growth and development.

The issues associated with the current reliance for Maine’s biosolids primarily on landfills are well documented. A recent report commissioned by the Bureau of General Services noted the following:

- Capacity in landfills is limited and will be filled before the next decade closes
- Without bulky wastes to stabilize biosolids, landfills will struggle to continue manage biosolids safely and effectively
- Solutions for biosolids management are being developed, but they will take several years to implements

It is imperative that the availability of bulky wastes for stabilizing biosolids in landfills be extended for period this bill provides.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 297.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Firmin, P.E.  
Director of Wastewater Services