

Mayor and Council Offices

Mark Dion

Mayor

April 22, 2025



Testimony of Mayor of the City of Portland, Mark Dion

Before

Environment and Natural Resources Committee

In Support of

LD 1633, An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials

April 22, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I write on behalf of the City of Portland in strong support of LD1633, which would facilitate the reuse of construction and building materials in alignment with goals established by Maine's climate action plan as well as the City of Portland's climate action plan.

The building sector accounts for a large portion of statewide carbon emissions. In urbanized parts of the state, such as the City of Portland, buildings contribute the majority of carbon emissions. State and local governments have taken steps to reduce emissions from building operations by adopting more rigorous energy codes and promoting the widespread adoption of energy efficient heating and cooling equipment such as air source heat pumps. Much more needs to be done, however, to address embedded carbon emissions from building materials. Promoting deconstruction rather than demolition will allow builders and contractors to recover and reuse valuable materials rather than landfilling them. This avoids carbon emissions from manufacturing new materials and conserves Maine's valuable landfill space by reusing valuable resources instead of dumping them.

LD 1633 lays the groundwork for Maine to be a leader in the recycling and reuse of construction materials. Establishing a \$10 per ton fee for landfilling construction and demolition material will incentivize the building industry to reuse and reclaim materials and provide the Maine Department of Environmental Protection with the resources to help establish an effective statewide program that facilitates the reuse of valuable building materials. At the same time, it encourages a market for the reusable materials by providing a refundable tax credit to developers who use reclaimed materials for housing development.

Promoting a circular economy for building materials supports the State's goal to reduce carbon emissions. It also aligns with the waste management hierarchy incorporated in Maine statute that prioritizes reuse of materials as the highest and best use of materials.

For these reasons the City of Portland urges you to support LD 1633.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark M Dion".

Mark Dion
Mayor
City of Portland, Maine