

Revised

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

LD 1793, An Act to Improve Management and Reduce the Volume of Solid Waste

May 5, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting revised testimony on LD 1793 because our Legislative Policy Committee decided to oppose the initiative at its April 29 meeting.

As expected, access to technical and financial assistance and collaborating on how best to support the local level solid waste management responsibilities provided in the bill are appreciated. However, considering that human nature and behavior impact municipalities' ability to respond to recycling goals and hierarchy, there is concern that the development and implementation of rules, policies, programs, and incentives designed to reduce the volume of solid waste will increase the workloads on municipal employees and costs to provide related services, without any change in outcome.

However, Sen. Grohoski has reached out to see if issues could be resolved. While we have not had the opportunity to meet, MMA and its members are willing to discuss other options, especially those focused on public education. To the extent that time allows, there may be a middle ground to be found.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this issue.