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Bangor
LD 2070

Good morning esteemed committee members and thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for this very consequential issue. I testify in support of LD 2070.

In background reading to understand this proposal, I am stunned by the volume of waste involved and our willingness to import such huge quantities from out of state. I do understand the need to stabilize the volume of sludge being landfilled. But I am completely baffled by our willingness, as a state whose environment is its "brand", to continue to harm the Penobscot River and the Penobscot Nation, who have already endured enormous harm by the volume of waste we create and import. The harm to the adjacent wetlands alone should be enough to make us pause this endeavor until we can devise another path forward that recognizes the long term impact and acts accordingly.

The state of Maine's "solid waste management hierarchy" lists in order of importance: reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and finally reduction of volume through processing and landfilling. But here we are, proposing the least desirable option.

It's difficult to walk away from this conversation without feeling as though money is the issue. What's the price tag for river cleanup, wetland restoration and adverse health consequences for the Penobscot Nation?

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2070. Thank you again for all the work you do for our great state.