

**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
Environment and Natural Resources**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures
of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and
June 30, 2025”**

February 16, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am Kirsten Figueroa, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2024-2025 biennial budget bill, LD 258, specifically the item on today’s agenda for the Solid Waste Management Fund.

This budget advances the Governor’s guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine’s greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we lived within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and the impact of the proposed investments.

Department of Administrative and Financial Services

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) consists of ten bureaus, a handful of boards and commissions, and more than 1,200 employees serving the public and all three branches of state government.

The Department has a broad range of responsibilities. We serve as the principal fiscal advisor to Governor Mills, prepare the state budget, coordinate the financial planning and programming activities of state agencies, prepare the financial records of the state, and advise the Maine Legislature on the economic status of the state and financial statutes of state government.

Additionally, DAFS oversees all aspects of: human resources, including employee benefits, contract negotiations, recruiting, retaining, training and performance; information technology services, including cyber security, data management, application development, project management, technology infrastructure, accessibility, and network services; maintenance, repairs and capital improvements of state-owned buildings and grounds; leased space; procurement, contracting and vendor management; state postal services; surplus property; tax collection, tax law and tax policy; and fleet management.

Various internal services for state agencies are provided by the Department, including review of accounting transactions and procedures and the implementation of account controls. We also administer the state's lottery operations, medical and adult use cannabis programs, and the sale of distilled spirits within Maine's borders.

DAFS employees are respected as conscientious stewards of the State's assets: fiscal, human, physical and technical. We are valued for the professional expertise we provide that ensures State departments and agencies efficiently, effectively, and economically fulfill their important missions for the people of Maine. We lead and collaborate with open doors, open minds, and open hearts.

DAFS also oversees three state-owned landfills.

Today's testimony relates to the state-owned landfills.

The **Solid Waste Management Fund**, which can be found on **page A-49** of the budget document, contains a General Fund appropriation of \$816,851 each year and an Other Special Revenue Fund allocation of approximately \$360,000 each year, which covers funding for one position.

Fees assessed on the disposal of certain waste, such as tires and batteries, and fees for environmental abatement are deposited into the account and then shared between the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Environmental Protection. The majority of the funds are transferred to the Department of Environmental Protection in support of enforcement and regulation, while DAFS receives funds for the cost of overseeing and maintaining the State's landfills.

There are three state-owned landfills, only one of which is actively operating. The active landfill is Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town. Juniper Ridge is operated by a private entity through an operating agreement issued by the State. The second landfill is Carpenter Ridge, which is located in the T2 R8 unorganized territory west of Lincoln. Carpenter Ridge is a licensed landfill but remains undeveloped.

The third landfill, the Dolby Landfill in East Millinocket, is supported by the funds in this Program. The funds cover the costs of managing the landfill, as well as the treatment of the landfill leachate. The State and the Town of East Millinocket share in the cost of operations and maintenance for the wastewater treatment plant that services the town and treats the landfill's leachate.

There is one initiative in this Program. This initiative provides ongoing funding of \$100,000 per year to address and mitigate PFAS contaminants. Specific to the Dolby Landfill, there are several new responsibilities related to PFAS. A study was ordered per Resolve 2021, chapter 172, to evaluate ways to remove PFAS from Dolby (and Juniper Ridge) landfill leachates. In 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) required testing of leachate from Dolby beginning in the fall of 2021 and twice a year thereafter for two years. The DEP has also required additional surface and ground water sampling and testing for PFAS be completed at the Dolby Landfill beginning in the fall of 2022 and conducted annually thereafter. Lastly, in 2022, the DEP required that the cover system at the Dolby Landfill made from an engineered soil be tested for PFAS. All sampling and testing is above and beyond past operational requirements and must be completed by the state's landfill contractor. The funds requested will be used to fulfill these requests related to PFAS.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.