



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Sen. Brenner, Rep. Gramlich and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Rep. Michael Lemelin of House District 53 representing Chelsea, Randolph, Pittston, and Dresden. I am here to present LD 826. **“ An Act to Prohibit the Disposal of Certain Solar Panels in the State and to Require Bonds to Cover Disposal Costs “**

As the Chair of the Planning Board in Chelsea, I approved the Chelsea's first solar farm. I knew there was going to be a disposal problem so we had the company put up a \$2 million dollar bond for proper disposal. The current solar-energy boom will trigger a landslide of toxic waste in Maine. In 20-25 years we will have an enormous amount of solar panel waste and no game plan to dispose of the complicated and toxic waste.

According to cancer biologist David H. Nguyen, PhD, toxic chemicals in solar panels include cadmium telluride, copper indium selenide, cadmium gallium (di)selenide, copper indium gallium (di)selenide, hexafluoroethane, lead, and polyvinyl fluoride. Silicon tetrachloride, a byproduct of producing crystalline silicon, is also highly toxic.

Maine leadership has decided blindly that we are going to clean energy, although it is 100% impossible to be free of fossil fuels and it would be ignorant to even attempt it. Then regardless of any scientific proof that may surface, this body turns their backs on Mainers and says we do not care. We want clean energy even if it kills all Mainers and wildlife in the meantime. We have a goal set by activist and brought forward by our Governor and so we will move forward all cost.

Maine does not have a solar waste plan. So, I am asking to make it illegal to place toxic waste in our landfill until the State creates a proper toxic waste disposal plan for solar panels. I am also asking us to require the solar companies to cover the cost of disposal. Every solar panel must be tested for toxicity before being disposed of.

Typically in the United States, solar panels are recycled at general-purpose glass recycling facilities, where their glass — and sometimes their metal frames — are recycled, and the remaining components are tested then thrown away or burned. Unfortunately, they also sometimes end up in landfills — and many recommend that when they must be discarded, they should be disposed of as hazardous waste. South Carolina, Ohio, Minnesota and Michigan, have a recycle plant for solar panels. Maine does not. Please consider protecting Maine's environment from toxic waste.