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Testimony of Representative S. Paige Zeigler introducing
LD 1009, An Act to An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste
Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Good morning, Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Paige Zeigler, and I represent District 40 consisting of the towns of Appleton, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolnville, Montville, Morrill and Searsmont. I am here today to present **LD 1009, An Act to An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste**.

I presented a similar bill in a previous session but allowed it to die as we wanted to discuss the issue further with the Department of Environmental Protection in order to work with their objections.

We did work further on this during the off session, and we came up with a good proposal for you to consider. However, I accidentally filed the old bill language with the Revisor's Office, so we do have amended language for you today to replace the bill. I do apologize. The day before cloture can be a bit stressful as many of you know.

The purpose of this bill is to reduce organic material entering the solid waste stream. This bill gives a time frame and a framework for diverting organic waste from landfills and facilities which burn this material. The amended wording reinforces the State's solid waste management hierarchy, starting with reduction and reuse, but knowing that can't fulfill all the goals it then looks at recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion to assist with the reduction.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you have, but there are folks from the Department and stakeholders here today who may be better positioned to answer specifics.