



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Rebecca Jauch

676 Cathance Rd.

Topsham, ME 04086

Phone: (207) 522-7438

Rebecca.Jauch@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. Rebecca Jauch in support of
**LD 536, An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for
the Conversion of Human Remains to Soil**
before the Joint Standing Committee on Committee on Health and Human Services

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Rebecca Jauch and I represent House District 51, which is the majority of Topsham. I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of **LD 536, An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for the Conversion of Human Remains to Soil.**

The age-old joke goes that nothing in life is guaranteed except death and taxes, and today we are talking about death. What happens to our bodies after we die is an incredibly personal choice and often the last decision that we make for ourselves during our lives. Many people choose burial or cremation while others choose to donate their bodies to science. Today we are asking you to add Natural Organic Reduction as one of our choices here in Maine. Natural Organic Reduction is environmentally-friendly and is done with dignity and respect. Personally, I can think of nothing more beautiful and true to my values than to return my body to the earth in a way that minimizes any negative impact on our environment.

Allowing Natural Organic Reduction in Maine would also bring new business to our state. Our funeral industry professionals could add Natural Organic Reduction to their current service offerings and new businesses specializing in Natural Organic Reduction could join the industry.

Ultimately, LD 536 is about choices. I strongly support giving Mainers the option of Natural Organic Reduction and I hope you do too. Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions.