

Gagne, Michael

From: Tim Kuebler <tkuebler@gchi.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:44 AM
To: janet.mills@maine.gov
Cc: Johnson, Heather; Jackson, Troy; TalbotRoss, Rachel; Lawrence, Mark; Zeigler, StanleyPaige; Grohoski, Nicole; Kessler, Christopher; Harrington, Matthew; Babin, Mark; Boyle, Jim; Dunphy, Larry; Foster, Steven; Geiger, Valli; Paul, Reagan; Runte, Gerry; Warren, Sophie; EUT; Russo, Michael; Laxon, Lindsay
Subject: LD2077
Attachments: Dragon Letter - Gov Mills v3.pdf

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Governor Mills,

I have been informed about LD2077 and wanted to provide my opinion.

While likely our idled cement plant at Thomaston will remain that way for the foreseeable future, we continue to do business in the state and believe this legislation will hinder any ongoing prospects for the future of the industrial sector in Maine, that could benefit from lower cost and lower emissions that natural gas can provide.

I respectfully submit my opinion as attached.

Thank you for your time and attention.



Tim Kuebler
CEO ELEMENTIA USA

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DRAGON

CEMENT

January 10, 2023

Governor Janet T. Mills
1 Statehouse Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

As you know, Dragon Cement in Thomaston announced the idling of our plant last Fall. While there were many factors that contributed to our decision, the inability for the plant to secure natural gas was a major factor. We were eager to use natural gas. That fuel would have replaced our mix of petroleum coke, tires, and carpet with a much cleaner burning fuel. Our CO2 emissions would have been reduced by 30% and costs cut in half providing a lifeline for continued operations.

As a result, our 100-year-old facility, more than 74 direct jobs, millions of dollars in sales, income, and property taxes, and Maine's access to affordable, local cement has vanished. It was potentially an avoidable tragedy.

I write to urge you review critically LD2077. This bill, if enacted, would ban natural gas expansion to facilities like Dragon's, forcing industrial customers to rely on more expensive and higher CO2-emitting fuels or move their facilities to places that have appropriate infrastructure.

In Maine's climate change plan, moving industrial facilities from oil and other high CO2 emitting fuels to natural gas is specifically endorsed¹. LD2077 is contrary to that policy and will result in higher CO2 emissions, higher energy costs and fewer jobs.

It's important the state quickly opposes this policy. By virtue of its being proposed, a negative message is already being sent to employers in the state and those looking to locate here.

Sincerely,

Tim Kuebler

President and CEO Giant Cement Holding (Dragon Cement)
107 New County Rd.
Thomaston, ME 04861

Cc: Senator Troy Jackson, Maine Senate President
Representative Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
Senator Lawrence, Chair of Joint Standing Committee of Energy, Utilities & Tech
Representative Zeigler, Chair of Joint Standing Committee of Energy, Utilities & Tech

¹ https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait_December2020.pdf, page 61