

**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 from the General
Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and
Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations
of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026
and June 30, 2027”**

February 6, 2025

Good morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera 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 2026-2027 biennial budget bill, LD 210, specifically the item on today’s agenda for the Solid Waste Management Fund.

Maine – like many states, both blue and red – is facing a tight budget environment. The Mills Administration has spent months carefully developing a balanced budget proposal to preserve the programs lawmakers and Maine people support, including education, revenue sharing, public safety, higher education, and school meals, while also protecting the long-term fiscal health of Maine.

Ultimately, we took a balanced approach: one that makes some investments - including operational needs such as technology efficiencies, health and safety improvements, collective bargaining impacts, etc. - that proposes some spending cuts, and that makes some targeted revenue increases. We know these proposals are difficult and appreciate that you will consider them with an open mind.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months to enact a budget that supports our greatest asset of all: the people of Maine.

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 programing 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 the management of three state-owned landfills.

The **Solid Waste Management Fund**, which can be found on **page A-48** of the budget document, contains a General Fund appropriation of \$916,851 each year and an Other Special Revenue Fund allocation of approximately \$390,000 each year, which includes 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. Separately, as part of the management of this landfill and through Maine Governmental Facilities Authority funds, the state has capped 68.2 acres of Dolby landfill cells in four phases. Capping reduces the amount of leachate produced through runoff and reduces treatment costs. The design for the next phase has started, which will inform the plan and construction costs for capping additional acreage.

There are no new initiatives in this program.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.