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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) In Opposition to

LD 231, An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy

March 17, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) in opposition to LD 231.

While the proposed elevation of waste processing above recycling in the state's solid waste management hierarchy could assist some municipalities with current municipal solid waste management issues in the short term, municipal officials are opposed to the elevation of waste processing methods in the solid waste management hierarchy.

Municipalities have invested in programs and facilities to reduce the local volume of waste that cannot be reduced, reused or recycled. Changing the priority of waste disposal could disincentivize residents to participate in these well-known programs.

There is no doubt that there are municipalities struggling to dispose of their municipal solid waste. Amid ownership changes, facility hurdles and costly litigation, those municipalities are actively looking for solutions. However, even among those impacted communities, this change is seen as unfavorable.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and share the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the MMA Advocacy team with any questions related to municipal operations.