

Testimony of Tim Glidden in **OPPOSITION** to
LD 231, An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy
March 17, 2025

Good morning. My name is Tim Glidden. I live in Topsham, Maine. I'm retired after a fifty-year career in Maine conserving the natural resources and environmental quality of this great state for our children and grandchildren. As a brief introduction to my background, I worked to develop sound environmental and conservation policy in Maine including a ten-year stint at the Legislature's Office of Policy and Legal Analysis staffing the committees with jurisdiction over energy, the environment and marine and natural resources.

I'm testifying today in opposition to LD 231, a misguided piece of legislation that would set back Maine's efforts to safely manage its solid waste and undermine the State's ability to minimize the amount of waste imported into Maine for disposal.

This bill purports to "update" the State's waste management hierarchy, the priorities that have governed the State's solid waste policy for almost 40 years. Since the late '80s the State has followed these priorities as it has sought to minimize the amount of waste being disposed of in Maine. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Compost. Each of these steps is correctly prioritized as less wasteful and harmful management actions to take before reaching the terminal step of disposal.

And that is the key word to focus on: **disposal**. Landfilling **and incineration** are forms of disposal.

LD 231 would elevate and privilege incineration over recycling and composting. The euphemistic words used to distract and mislead are "waste processing". But don't lose sight of the word buried at the end of that phrase on line 11, "incineration".

Incineration is not a form of "waste processing" any more than burying the waste in a landfill. It is simply a different form of disposal. What happens to the incinerated waste? Its solid volume is certainly reduced. But what happens to the rest of the waste? It does not magically vanish. It is simply **disposed** of into the atmosphere... dumped into the air that we all breathe.

This idea has been proposed to the Legislature before and has been roundly and rightly rejected. I urge the committee to reject this misguided proposal again. Do not undermine Maine's efforts to effectively manage its solid waste and protect the health of all Maine citizens. Thank you for your kind attention.