



# TOWN OF ORRINGTON, MAINE

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April 9, 2025

Senator Mark Lawrence - Chairman  
Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Chairman Lawrence,

I am here today to offer my testimony in support of LD # 1063 *"An Act to Require Competitive Procurement of Electricity from Generators Fueled by Municipal Solid Waste in Conjunction with Recycling"*

My name is Chris Backman and I am here on behalf of the Town of Orrington as their Town Manager. The Town of Orrington was a host community for one of these facilities for over thirty (30) years and recently became an equity partner in the Eagle Point Energy Center. This bill will benefit Maine companies, municipally owned facilities, Maine employees, and many Maine businesses providing goods and services to these facilities.

I cannot attest to the intricacies of the electrical market operations, but as a municipal administrator I can assure you that stability and long term reliability are two factors that influence my decisions when preparing annual budgets and longer term forecasting. Peaks and valleys in budgets and municipal mil rates should be avoided at all costs.

This longer term pricing agreement afforded to these facilities with LD 1063 will have analogous results to stabilize their operational revenue streams.

As Town Manager, I have very much been thrust into a position to act as a spokesman and point person for over forty (40) other municipalities as we navigate the turmoil caused by the closure of the former PERC facility. Solid Waste is a serious problem in Central Maine and collectively we all should agree that landfilling should be the option of last resort. These facilities are providing a superior solution over landfilling.

And if I may don my economic development hat, the longer term, constant income levels provided in LD # 1063 offers these facilities an inducement to study larger capitalization projects that provide long term benefits and efficiencies.

I thank you for your time and consideration and join me and the others here in supporting passage of LD # 1063.

Sincerely,

Chris Backman  
Town Manager

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