



Town of Warren

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Good afternoon,

Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology - my name is Sherry Howard, and I am the Town Manager for the Town of Warren. On behalf of our town's residents and Select Board, I come before you 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"*

As a municipality, solid waste management is consistently one of our greatest challenges from year-to-year, both in terms of ensuring that we have a consistent path for disposal of solid waste and ensuring that the costs of doing so are manageable. As our options for solid waste disposal continue to dwindle, our increased vulnerability to price volatility and the potential for future inability to dispose of municipal waste is of great concern to the town.

Since the closure of the former PERC facility, we have been forced to send our solid waste further away from our Midcoast home to Juniper Ridge Landfill, which adds almost an hour worth of additional drive time for our solid waste hauler. This leads to increased hauling costs for the town that add up significantly over time, not to mention the additional environmental impact of dumping at a landfill rather than utilizing a waste to energy process.

As a state, we need more options for solid waste disposal that offer longer term security in their pricing agreements so that our municipalities can safely predict budget and make reliable capital improvement plans to cover other major expenses. We believe this bill will help guarantee pricing security for solid waste budgets, while also offering the win-win benefit of turning waste that would otherwise be a total loss and drain on our environment into locally produced energy that spurs economic development opportunities for the people of Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration of supporting the passage of LD 1063.

Sincerely,

Sherry Howard – Town Manager, Warren, Maine