

Testimony before the 132nd Maine Legislature

In Support of LD 1519

Senator Tepler , Representative Doudera and other members of this Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you in support of LD 1519.

I'm Karen Peterson, and I'm the Manager of the Readfield Transfer Station. Besides Readfield, we also serve the Towns of Wayne and Fayette.

Not only do people ask me how to dispose of these devices, but I also find them on the grounds of our facility. They're often so small, I think people consider them like cigarette butts and toss them on the ground if not in their trash bags once the product inside has been consumed. Thankfully, our transfer station has not had any fires caused by their crushing or compacting in our compactors, but I have heard of fires in larger Maine facilities.

Maine transfer stations, with guidance from the DEP, already do a good job of recycling many electronic materials and devices-from TV's, computers, cell phones and other electronic devices, to all kinds of bulbs and batteries.

Our transfer station has recently begun recycling all types of batteries, at no cost to taxpayers because of what I believe is a similar stewardship program. This includes the rechargeable Lithium Ion batteries that power most of these electronic smoking devices. The problem is, the current program only accepts the batteries themselves for recycling. I can't simply access and remove the batteries from these devices, therefore I'm stuck, so to speak. Believe me, I have tried to take them apart and not been successful.

I am sure you'll hear from others today who will speak about this issue from other, larger perspectives. It's also important for you to hear from the transfer station operators perspective, so I thank you again for considering this important topic.