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Testimony on

L.D. 1633, *"An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials"*

**Presented by
Representative Russell P. White
District 13**

Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Monday, April 28, 2025

Good morning, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am State Representative Russell P. White, and I proudly represent District 13, Central Hancock, Ellsworth, and Waltham. It is an honor to appear before you today for the purpose of introducing L.D. 1633, *"An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials."*

With enduring efforts to reduce the volume of solid waste going into our landfills, this bill seeks to allow the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish, by rule, a streamlined process for the certification of construction materials reclamation facilities. Under the provisions of the proposal, a construction materials reclamation facility is defined as a facility that exclusively accepts construction and demolition debris, and sorts, refurbishes, and sells construction materials reclaimed from the debris for reuse in construction.

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Likewise, L.D. 1633 seeks to implement a non-lapsing Construction Materials Reclamation Fund within the Department to provide grants, loans, or other funding to any public or private entity to support the development and certification of construction materials reclamation facilities, training programs for individuals operating and employed at those facilities, and public outreach and education initiatives regarding those facilities. Beginning January 1, 2026, this fund will receive a new \$10 per ton fee imposed on the landfill disposal of construction and demolition debris and residue from the processing of the debris. The bill also capitalizes this fund with General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Again, by reducing the amount of solid waste going into our landfills, a new goal is established in that by January 1, 2036, the total tonnage of construction and demolition debris annually disposed of at solid waste landfills in the State will be reduced by 25%. The baseline for calculating this reduction is the 2024 solid waste generation and disposal capacity data gathered by the DEP.

Lastly, L.D. 1633 directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to develop a proposal for implementation of a refundable tax credit for housing developers that purchase for use in the construction of affordable housing in the State reclaimed construction materials from a certified construction materials reclamation facility. The credit must be equal to 100% of the documented cost of the reclaimed construction materials purchased by the developer from a construction materials reclamation facility. The Bureau is further required to develop a proposal for implementation of a charitable deduction from individual income tax for individuals or businesses who donate construction materials to a certified construction materials reclamation facility. The Bureau must submit by January 1, 2026 a report setting forth the tax credit and deduction proposals, including necessary implementing legislation, along with any related recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, and after reviewing the report, the Committee may report out related legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Thank you for your time. Those testifying after me can certainly provide greater insight on the merits of this proposal.