



ESTABLISHED 1975

April 28, 2025

Senator Denise Tepler
Representative Victoria Doudera
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Letter regarding LD 1782

To the Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Simon Tripp, Vice President of the Eastern Region for Casella Waste Services. Casella is a regional integrated materials management company with over 50 years of waste and recycling experience. In addition to being contracted by the Bureau of General Services (BGS) to operate the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) for the State, we employ more than 500 people in Maine who serve dozens of municipalities from Kittery to Limestone and operate roughly 200 trucks and 35 facilities to meet our customers' daily needs. Our Maine operations recover nearly 50,000 tons of recyclable material each year and put it to a higher and better use, making us one of the leading recyclers in the Eastern United States.

We make it a priority to build excellent relationships with the host communities where we operate. We are especially proud of our relationship with the City of Old Town. Several Casella employees live in Old Town. We are in regular communication with Bill Mayo, Old Town's City Manager, and other town officials.

When Casella entered into a contract with BGS to run the state-owned landfill, we signed a "Host Agreement" with Old Town as part of that arrangement. The Host Agreement requires that Old Town receive \$2.557 per ton of standard waste disposed. There is an annual adjustment to this amount. Old Town receives \$2.952 per ton on any new category of waste added post the 2005 agreement. The per ton waste fee in 2024 was \$1.89 million. Over the time that Casella has operated the landfill, Old Town has received slightly more than \$23 million in waste fees. Additionally, we provide a number of direct economic benefits to neighbors living in the immediate proximity of the landfill, including property tax reimbursement and a property value guarantee.

Old Town also receives an annual payment to address potential impacts on the City's public welfare, budget, infrastructure and services arising out of the construction and operation of the landfill, including any expansion. That figure was originally \$50,000 and is increased by \$5,000 every 5 years; it will rise to \$70,000 this year. Casella also makes an annual payment equal to the amount of property tax that would have been assessed had the state-owned property not been exempt from municipal taxation. This amount was \$359,000 in 2024. In addition, the City receives free disposal of its solid



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waste, including biosolids and construction and demolition debris, a benefit that was worth \$149,000 in 2024, but has been as high as \$172,000 in recent years.

It is appropriate to review the adequacy of the Host Agreement. We have done this in the past with Old Town and will continue to so as the operator at JRL. We believe that process should be done in a way that is predictable and not duplicative. And we must remain mindful that these costs ultimately affect the overall cost of waste disposal for all communities in Maine.

Sincerely,

Simon A. Tripp

Simon Tripp
Vice President, Eastern Region
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.