



CROSSROADS LANDFILL

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Waste Management Testimony in Opposition to
LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands
February 11, 2026

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Honorable members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Waste Management respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands

Landfills Play a Critical Role in Maine's Solid Waste Hierarchy

Waste Management owns and operates the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock, Maine, which serves as the primary disposal option for more than fifty of Maine's municipalities. Crossroads and other landfills in the State also serve a critical role in supporting waste incinerators, solid waste processing facilities, and special waste contractors that provide services statewide.

Crossroads is also critical to the long-term solid waste management plans for the 115 communities that are part of the Municipal Waste Hub (formerly known as the Municipal Review Committee). The Municipal Waste Hub has a start-of-the-art recycling facility but it is not yet in full operation; therefore, municipal solid waste for these communities must be landfilled. In addition, when the proposed Municipal Waste Hub processing facility becomes operational there will be residuals that require landfilling and periods of downtime when the facility will be unable to accept MSW, which will be bypassed and sent to Crossroads.

Crossroads and other landfills are also the only disposal option for waste types that cannot be recycled, incinerated or beneficially reused, such as bulky waste, construction and demolition debris, and special wastes that may require specialized handling. For example, BIW — like most Maine industrial entities — seeks to reduce and recycle their waste. Nevertheless, there are substantial amounts of mixed industrial waste that must be landfilled. Furthermore, given the extent of BIW's initiatives to modernize their facilities, build housing and demolish outdated facilities, they are a significant generator of demolition debris that also needs to be landfilled. Norridgewock handles these waste streams.

Finally, landfills are critical to the safe disposal of biosolids or wastewater treatment sludge. Obviously, these materials can no longer be applied to fields due to concerns over PFAS. Waste Management will shortly commence operation of a sludge processing facility at Norridgewock that will reduce the water content from 80% to less than 30%, greatly reducing the volume of material to be landfilled.

Maine's Existing Regulations Strike an Appropriate Balance between Environmental Protection and Allowing Properly Sited Development

Maine has a robust permitting program that balances protection of wetlands with appropriate and responsible development. The Natural Resources Protection Act regulates alterations of wetlands and prohibits any unreasonable adverse impact to such resources. The Army Corps of Engineers implements a similar program. In determining whether an impact is unreasonable, the Maine DEP will consider among other factors the area of wetland to be altered, the functions and values of the wetland, and the cumulative effect of frequent minor alterations. Higher value wetlands (wetlands of special significance (WOSS)) enjoy heightened protection, and certain types of developments, including landfills, may not alter a WOSS.

To obtain approval to alter a wetland an applicant must demonstrate that they have avoided impacts to the maximum extent practicable. This requires a robust alternatives analysis that evaluates options for avoiding the wetland alteration. The activity will be considered to result in an unreasonable impact if it will cause a loss in wetland area, functions, or values and there is a practicable alternative to the activity that would be less damaging to the environment. Additionally, the amount of any alteration must be minimized. Finally, compensation is required for unavoidable impacts. The goal of compensation is no net loss of wetland functions and value, and it can be achieved through wetland enhancement or creation, preservation (typically at a ratio of 8:1 under NRPA) or payment into Maine's in-lieu fee program. Funds deposited into the in-lieu fee program are managed by Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) and used to protect high-value wetland resources in the State.

Waste Management takes its environmental stewardship obligations seriously and we appreciate the need to protect Maine's critical resources. We urge caution, however, on enactment of a broad prohibition on any landfill expansion that would alter freshwater wetlands and the unintended consequences that would inevitably result.

Thank you for considering our testimony and we respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 2070.