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**Testimony of the Maine Water Environment Association
Neither For Nor Against L.D. 2070 – An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands**

February 11, 2026

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

MEWEA is submitting this testimony neither for nor against LD 2070, which would limit landfill expansion into freshwater wetlands. While not referencing it by name, this proposal seems to aim at the current application to expand the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL). As this Committee likely knows, JRL accepts over 80% of the sludge generated at the State's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). At current rates, JRL is expected to be at capacity in as soon as two years.

As Operators and Managers representing the State's municipally owned POTWs, we do not wish to insert ourselves into the debate regarding JRL's expansion. Thus, our NFNA position.

We do, however, feel it is paramount that we impress upon the Legislature the dire position of waste disposal in our State, both for sludge and solid waste. Since the Legislature banned land application of biosolids in 2021, the State has commissioned numerous studies that all come to this conclusion: the State must have a more robust, long-term plan for managing "waste" material generated within the State. Relying on other States, our international neighbors, and existing available disposal outlets is not serving our Communities.

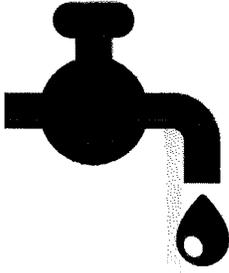
What is the State's long-term plan for managing waste?

To support finding an answer to this question, our MEWEA membership are drafting a white paper that summarizes the State's work on this issue. Our white paper hopes to provide a foundation for discussions among all stakeholders of this critical issue so that we in the environmental community can work together to carve a long-term plan that is sustainable and includes multiple resilient outlets for biosolids disposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued commitment to protecting the environment of our great State.

Respectfully submitted,

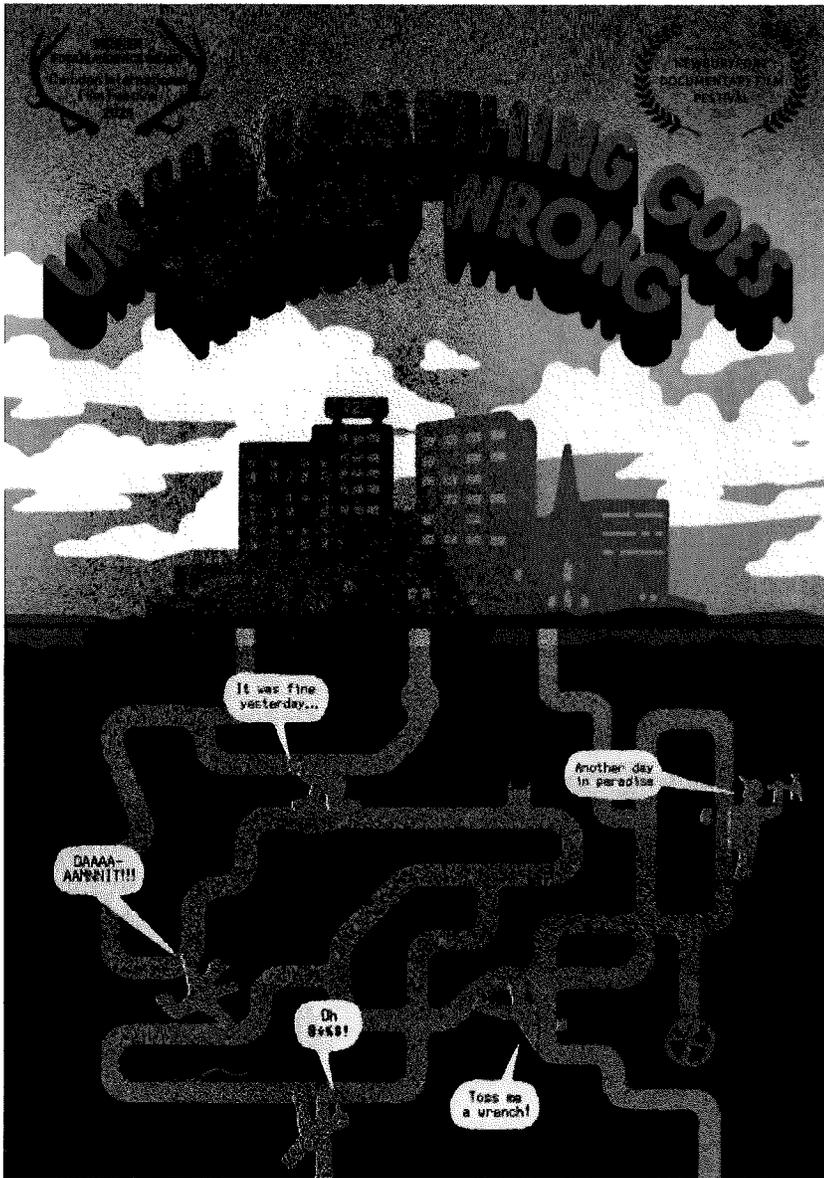
Dan Marks
Government Affairs Committee Chair
Maine Water Environment Association



MEWEA



Maine Water Environment Association
"Legislative Chambers Lunch and a Movie!"
Wednesday, March 4, at 10:00 am



About MEWEA: We are a non-profit, all volunteer association representing over 650 members across Maine. Our membership includes wastewater treatment plant operators, sewer collection system operators, utility system administrators, consulting engineers, suppliers, contractors, public works officials, stormwater system operators, and regulatory officials.

Our members provide essential public sewer and stormwater services to hundreds of thousands of Maine residents and businesses across the state. Maintaining these vital services requires continuous investment and a dedicated workforce focused on protecting public health and the environment and spurring local and national economic growth.