

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
of  
Mark C. Draper, Solid Waste Director, Aroostook Waste Solutions  
Regarding  
**L.D. 1367, “An Act to Create a Grant Program to Promote Innovation in Municipal Carbon  
Reduction Initiatives”**

Good Day Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Mark Draper and I am the Solid Waste Director for Aroostook Waste Solutions (“AWS”). My comments today are generally in support of L.D. 1367, with one suggested amendment. AWS has extensively reviewed the Maine Climate Council’s Four-Year Plan for Climate Action (“Plan”), and has developed a number of potential projects and possible outcomes from the implementation of the various strategies described in the Plan. More than one of those potential projects is rather ambitious, and would greatly benefit from supplemental funding to move forward. To that end, I am in support of L.D. 1367, which could allow AWS to utilize grant funds for such ambitious projects that may not otherwise materialize.

The single amendment that I would respectfully submit for your consideration is to expand the eligibility of the grant funds to specifically include quasi-municipal organizations, regional municipal associations, and special districts. Such expansion accomplishes two (2) things: (1) it potentially allows for funding of projects that may extend or benefit beyond a single municipality; and (2) it encourages municipalities to work regionally on climate change projects.

I thank you for your consideration of my comments.