



Maine Municipal  
Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486  
(207) 623-8428  
www.memun.org

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

*LD 911 – An Act To Prohibit the Reception of Foreign Waste Plastic in Maine Ports*

April 26, 2021

---

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 911 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

The Association is committed to eliminating plastics from the waste stream entirely and this bill is counter to that goal. There is already enough plastic in Maine's waste stream that allowing more into the state seems ill-advised. Managing plastic in the existing waste stream should be prioritized before the state considers receiving plastic waste from outside Maine.

However, some members note that a prohibition of this nature could create problems in the future. There are practical applications for plastic waste, like asphalt, that might depend on shipments from another state or county. It is also possible that Maine's recycling infrastructure could one day accommodate, and capitalize, off the plastic waste generated elsewhere.

One way or the other this bill sends a clear message about the level of Maine's dedication to the complete elimination of plastic from the global waste stream. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.