



MAINE
AGGREGATE ASSOCIATION

LD-1532, “An Act To Protect Maine’s Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing”

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and respective members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Chip Laite, I am a resident of Camden and President of Laite Construction, Inc. I am providing testimony today on behalf of the Maine Aggregate Association (MAA), where I serve on the Board of Director’s and Past President, in opposition to LD-1532.

MAA is a statewide, non-profit, member-based organization representing businesses and individuals involved with the gravel and rock industries. Established in 1994, MAA has become an effective and respected voice for the industry. MAA membership includes gravel pit owners, quarry operators, aggregate processors and truckers as well as equipment dealers, banks, insurance agencies and consulting firms that serve the aggregate industry.

Most MAA members are small family-owned businesses. Businesses that help build our public infrastructure: roads, hospitals, schools, water systems, airports & sewage treatment facilities, stormwater management structures as well as our homes and businesses. These companies produce aggregates – sand, gravel rock, stone, ready-mix concrete and asphalt. In order to produce these products, a State Air Emission License is often required.

It appears that this legislation is attempting to address a local, Southern Maine issue. However, irrespective of the merits of addressing that local issue, LD-1532 would result in imposing overly burdensome regulatory hurdles on the rest of the state including MAA small businesses, businesses that are not in any way contributing to that local issue, but the cost imposed upon them by this bill would be significant.

Moreover, according to the expert testimony of Eric Kennedy of the Maine DEP, LD-1532 would not result in an improvement in Maine’s air quality. MAA fully supports the position of the Maine DEP and urges the committee to vote unanimously Ought-Not-To-Pass.

Thank you in advance for you time and consideration of our position on this matter.