



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Presentation in Opposition of LD 1639 An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste

By Wayne Boyd, General Manager, Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Wayne Boyd, an employee of Casella and the General Manager of Juniper Ridge, the State-owned landfill in Old Town

Thank you for the opportunity to renew our opposition to LD 1639 “An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste.”

First, the State-owned landfill does not accept “out of state waste” and is prohibited from doing so by law.

I would like to turn your attention to the impacts this bill will have on the recycling and solid waste management industry in Maine. This bill would hinder the ability of landfill operators to maintain high environmental standards. It would also move Maine backwards in terms of providing safe and affordable disposal options.

Maine owns a state-of-the-art landfill that leads New England in environmental compliance. The landfill provides a safe and responsible option for the disposal of materials that are hard to manage, such as wastewater sludge, construction and demolition debris (CDD) and a CDD processing residual known commonly as oversized bulky waste (OBW). While other disposal facilities in Maine are allowed to burn CDD, that practice does not occur at the state-owned landfill. Additionally, we installed and began operating in 2015 a Thiopaq sulfur removal system at the state-owned landfill to decrease emissions of sulfur dioxide, as required by our air emissions license from the DEP. Resource Lewiston’s CDD recycling process creates a residual material that the state-owned landfill beneficially reuses for alternative daily cover (ADC). Residuals from the CDD recycling process include fines and bulky materials that cannot be further recycled. In addition to ADC, the state-owned landfill uses these materials for grading and shaping, as well as bulking sludge and other wet wastes that cannot be safely disposed of unless sufficient structure is added to the waste.

The passage of this bill would completely disrupt that.

When I try to explain the challenges of landfill operations – people, equipment, and procedures - I like to emphasize the need for having the necessary “tools in the toolbox” and how challenging day to day operations can become when tools get taken out of our toolbox.

Let me be very straightforward and to the point: Resource’s processing residuals are some of our most vital operational tools.

Two types of processing residual are reliably delivered to Juniper Ridge from ReSource facilitating day to day operations – I call them “the bones”.

They are:

Fines, so-called because the material consists of small sized pieces and particles of PROCESSED CDD that cannot be recycled and must be sent to an end-of-life disposal facility,

And Oversized Bulky Waste, or OBW – this material has been PROCESSED and SORTED at ReSource from inbound construction and demolition debris because it cannot be recycled and needs an end-of-life disposal option. Examples are mattresses, carpets, couches, tarps, etc.

Without the two types of processing residuals we currently get from ReSource, major operation changes would have to be instituted.

Juniper Ridge would need to 1) replace the fines material and fill up valuable space with hundreds and thousands of tons of virgin soil, and 2) due to the lack of OBW as a bulking agent, turn away many of our current municipal waste treatment plant sludge customers placing a burden on these municipal facilities to find an alternative environmentally safe disposal site – possibly out of state.

Replacing the Fines:

DEP regulations require placing cover material over the working face of the landfill at the end of every day. This material is called Alternative Daily Cover or ADC.

The State-owned landfill beneficially reuses the fines residuals as ADC. By beneficially reusing the fines residual, Juniper Ridge extends the material’s life cycle and maintains a practice consistent with Maine’s solid waste management hierarchy.

The alternative to fines is virgin soil or sand. By reusing the fines residual, we are avoiding excavating and/or transporting truckloads of valuable natural resources and then placing them in the landfill as daily cover. Also note that virgin soil is inferior as a daily cover as compared to CDD processing fines because soil turns into mud when saturated - Fines do not; they simply let moisture drain down through the permeable material which is much better for heavy traffic flow. Also, the fines from Resource must not exceed a sulfur content limit as required by their disposal contract.

If Resource’s fines were to stop going to Juniper Ridge, virgin soil is our only alternative to accomplish the required daily cover as the fines from the Lewiston facility are currently the only suitable material for ADC we can currently and reliably count on.

I would also point out that the practice of using C&D fines as alternative daily cover is not unique to Maine. Many other states across nation allow the use of C&D fines as ADC, including California and New York, to name a few. As in Maine, this practice is carefully and thoughtfully regulated to ensure beneficial use of C&D fines.

Turning away municipal sludge:

Sludge needs to be mixed at a ratio of about 50/50 with oversized bulky waste to maintain proper structural stability at the State-owned facility. This is not optional; it is an engineering necessity. Landfill stability absolutely cannot be compromised, and bulking sludge with OBW is the way to

accomplish that. The amount of sludge we can accept at Juniper Ridge is directly proportional to the bulky waste we receive. Less bulky waste will force us to turn away municipal treatment plant sludge generators. We would be unable to find other waste materials generated in Maine that are suitable for bulking and stabilizing waste treatment plant sludge.

To clarify, OBW is not the same material as raw CDD as it has been processed and sorted thereby enabling it to be a safer bulking agent than raw CDD. This further demonstrates the need of the volume of sorted OBW material from ReSource as it provides a more environmentally friendly storage solution for sludges.

I note that the amount of sludge being delivered to the State-owned landfill by our Maine municipal customers has increased dramatically in recent years due to new directives in sludge disposal options by the DEP.

If Juniper Ridge loses any of these sources of OBW in the future, then what we can accept in terms of sludges will have to be reduced by the same amount.

Additionally, by beneficially reusing processed residuals, the state-owned landfill maintains adherence to Maine's Solid Waste Hierarchy whereby solid waste can be reused without harming or presenting a threat of harm to public health, safety, or the environment.

I would be happy to take any questions.

Wayne Boyd
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