



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1639 – *An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste*

May 17, 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 1639 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

From the municipal perspective this legislation raises three competing points of interest.

- 1) Restricting the amount of residue that incineration and recycling facilities can produce to the weight of waste generated within the state will limit the full revenue potential of these facilities. The lost revenue is generally needed to support further waste management efforts in the state. Additionally, some facilities have made significant investments in anticipation of receiving out-of-state waste and this bill would minimize their returns.
- 2) This restriction benefits the environment by limiting how much harmful residue can be produced. The bill sends the environmental message that Maine is focused on properly managing its waste stream and will not enable out-of-state waste producers to pass their responsibility onto Maine. However, this message depends on the few capable facilities to remain operable on just the state generated waste stream.

The addition of environmental justice to the determination standards for solid waste disposal facilities exemplifies the Association's commitment to a sustainable future for all.

- 3) Commercial and demolition debris is sometimes mixed with more hazardous wastes to reduce toxicity in wastewater sludge prior to landfilling. This legislation does not directly impact that process, but it could alter the larger supply chain. If this bill is passed, incineration and recycling facilities within the state might be desperate for CDD, driving up costs for all uses of this waste.

LD 1639 is a benefit to our environment, a punch to our incineration facilities, and a toss-up for the CDD supply chain. The balance between these perspectives puts the Association on neither side of this bill. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.