

Via Electronic Delivery

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May 17, 2021

The Honorable Stacy Brenner
The Honorable Ralph Tucker
Co-Chairs
The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
c/o Legislative Information
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: **LD 1639: “An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste”**

Dear Sen. Brenner, Rep. Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding LD 1639.

I am the President and Chief Operating Officer for ReSource Waste Services, which operates a facility in Lewiston that processes construction and demolition (C&D) waste. We accept a wide variety of solid, non-hazardous C&D material and optimize the recovery of useable materials, creating valuable products and diverting waste from landfills. Our facility in Lewiston is the largest processor of C&D waste in the state of Maine.

ReSource Waste Services supports approximately 40 direct jobs and dozens more of indirect jobs. We spend about \$14 million a year and we have more than 50 customers and more than 100 vendors. We make direct payments of more than \$400,000 per year to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) solid waste fund for the disposal of waste at the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) and we have a direct benefit to the City of Lewiston of approximately \$275,000 every year, including lease and tax payments and free disposal of waste. In 2020 the Lewiston facility processed approximately 190,000 tons, with about 60 re-used as new products or beneficial use as alternative daily cover at JRL.

Our recovered materials are used in a wide variety of applications: fuel for electricity generation; medium-density fiberboard (MDF) manufacturing; asphalt paving; new cardboard

and drywall; recycled plastic and metal products; and other construction materials and soil substitutes.

ReSource Waste Services has made facility, equipment and process improvements since acquiring the Lewiston facility in 2013. For example, we have made property improvements and installed a new magnet system to extract more ferrous metals from the waste stream. This has allowed us to expand our relationships with end-market customers to support the increased recovery of wood, old corrugated cardboard, plastics and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. We also have enjoyed working with MEDEP on pilot programs for the recovery of carpeting to be used as a fuel at Dragon Cement and to test methods to recycle mattresses.

We expect our business to play a critical role as MEDEP begins to oversee the remediation of sites in Maine that have been contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Some of the end-products from ReSource Waste Services in Lewiston, including oversized bulky waste (OBW) and CDD fines, will be ideal bulking agents for PFAS sludge and will allow for its safe disposal. In addition, we foresee playing a role in assisting the State with the reuse of glass, which is currently being landfilled due to the lack of an end-market for recycled glass. We can mix processed ABC and curbside recycled glass to create a product for pipe bedding at landfills, replacing the use of virgin materials at landfills and reducing the direct landfilling of glass, conserving landfill space.

ReSource Waste Services was part of a broad group of stakeholders that worked with the Maine State Legislature's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for approximately 18 months as the Committee worked to refine and unanimously report LD 401, "An Act To Preserve State Landfill Capacity and Promote Recycling." This bill was approved by the 129th Maine Legislature in 2020 and signed by Governor Janet Mills on March 18, 2020, becoming P.L. Chapter 619 and codified at 38 M.R.S. § 1303-C (40-A).

P.L. Chapter 619 redefines the "waste generated within the state" and requires waste processing facilities such as ReSource Waste Services to meet specific recovery goals as of January 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023. The goal of the Legislature last year, as stated in the bill's title, was to preserve state landfill capacity and to promote recycling, and we believe this new law will be effective in meeting this goal. The MEDEP is required to report back on outcomes as part of the 2024 update to the state waste management and recycling plan.

As a result of the enactment of this new law, ReSource Waste Services committed to make an investment in new equipment and technology to increase the facility's recovery rate. We are making an investment in excess of \$1.5 million to install new equipment and a new processing line at the Lewiston facility. We have received MEDEP approval to make these improvements and we have placed orders and deployed capital for: two new magnets to increase the recovery of ferrous metals; an eddy current separator to increase the recovery of non-ferrous metals; and a de-stoner to increase the recovery of asphalt, brick and concrete (ABC). It is our expectation that these materials will arrive at our facility in the summer and fall of 2021 and be operational in late 2021 or early 2022.

This new equipment, along with a new picking line that will increase the additional recovery of wood, will significantly increase operational efficiency and recovery rates at the facility.

As we continue with a capital investment that is significant for our small business, it is critical for us to have a stable regulatory environment and to be able to rely on the policy that had been shaped by 18 months of civic engagement by a broad group of interested parties.

We believe the law enacted last year will help the State continue to meet its solid waste goals and increase recycling, and we ask the Committee to provide a full opportunity for us and others to abide by the new provisions in that law and to provide the necessary time for those provisions to be followed and for the outcomes to be analyzed as part of the MEDEP 2024 update to the state waste management and recycling plan. If LD 1639 were to be enacted, our facility in Lewiston will terminate operations.

For the above reasons, I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1639.

I hope to be in a position to continue operation of the ReSource Waste Services facility in Lewiston, and to be able continue working with all of you to support the State's solid waste goals.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Leahey
President & Chief Operating Officer
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