



Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on

Environment and Natural Resources; My name is Garrett Mason, and I am the contract lobbyist for ABC Maine. Today, I am representing Associated Builders and Contractors of Maine. ABC is a national association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms. Here in Maine, ABC represents over 170 businesses across the state – many are located in districts that you all represent. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I am here today to speak in opposition to LD 1639, “An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste.” Though we understand the need to reduce the waste stream in Maine, this bill will do little to address this problem.

The most direct impact of this legislation will be on Maine workers. The language in the bill changes how the state looks at solid waste disposal, and could lead to the closing of Maine solid waste processing facilities, including the ReSource Lewiston processing facility. This will lead to the loss of over 75 direct and indirect jobs at a time when Mainers are in need of good paying work. Such plant closures would cause disruption to maine construction and demolition debris (CDD) waste stream, affecting our member’s ability to properly dispose of materials used on the jobsite.

Maine is already lagging behind on our ability to properly recycle all CDD that is processed in the state. Now is not the time to take steps backward in this effort. The industry is making great strides toward increasing their recycling capacity for CDD, and this bill will hamper these efforts.

On behalf of ABC Maine and the members we represent I would ask that you vote ought not to pass on LD 1639.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.