

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD

926 VILLAGE RD
SMITHFIELD, MAINE 04978

March 11, 2022

State of Maine Legislature
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Chair Stacy Brenner
House Chair Michael Brennan
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 259: An Act to Improve Solid Waste Management

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Please accept the following as written testimony in opposition to Representative Tucker's proposed amendment to LD 529, proposing *An Act to Increase Waste Handling Fees Imposed on the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris*.

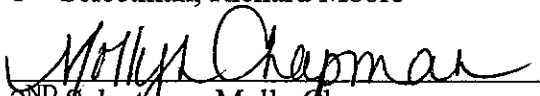
We support the mission of diverting waste away from landfills and understand the importance of the solid waste hierarchy; however, we have concerns about the financial impact of this amendment on Mainers. This proposed amendment would have a detrimental financial impact on many municipalities, proposing a remarkable increase on the disposal of municipal solid waste or municipal solid waste ash, as well as construction and demolition debris and residue from the processing of construction and demolition debris. The proposed increase is five-fold, which will ultimately be passed along to local taxpayers. Smithfield is no exception; our municipal tax burden will increase to pay for the increase. Ultimately, it is local taxpayers that will shoulder the burden of this proposal.

We strongly oppose Representative Tucker's proposed amendment to LD 529 and remain hopeful that the State might find progress in educating the public and expanding opportunities for waste diversion, without having to levy another tax on Mainers.

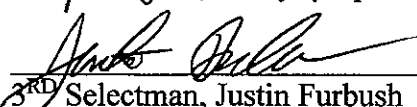
Respectfully,



1ST Selectman, Richard Moore



2ND Selectman, Molly Chapman



3RD Selectman, Justin Furbush