



SIERRA CLUB

MAINE CHAPTER

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To: Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources

From: Robert S. Howe, Sierra Club Maine

Date: March 4, 2022

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 259, An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management

On behalf of the approximately 20,000 Sierra Club members and supporters across the state, I submit the following testimony in support of LD 259. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club is one of our nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. We work diligently to amplify the power of our members as we defend everyone's right to a just and sustainable economy.

Sierra Club Maine wishes to go on record as supporting the proposed amendment for L.D. 259, An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management. The two fees proposed for an increase are reasonable and serve a useful public purpose, namely, to help fund the operation of recycling programs throughout the state and to compensate municipalities for the cost of closing landfills that were required to be closed by the state, respectively.

In addition, the proposed increase in the construction demolition debris (CDD) fee will complement the provisions of L.D. 1639, An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste, as amended and which you recently reported out of this committee. We understand the object of that bill, at least in part, is to reduce the quantities of CDD brought to Maine landfills from outside the state of Maine. The increased fees will serve as an incentive to identify more suitable disposal alternatives for those materials and help to achieve the timetable of getting to a 50% reduction in CDD going into landfills by 2026.

We urge that you support L.D. 259 with the proposed amendment.