



Office of the Town Manager

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*.

Norridgewock has a unique perspective on landfilling, as we are the host community to Waste Management's Crossroads landfill. The importance of reinforcing the solid waste hierarchy cannot be understated; however, the method of supporting the hierarchy should be through education and opportunity, rather than through advanced taxation.

Increasing the fees associated with 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 will only have a negative impact on the taxpayer. The 500 percent increase in per ton disposal fees will be passed along to municipalities and consumers, placing a significant burden on Maine residents at a time when things are already very difficult.

I strongly oppose Representative Tucker's proposed amendment to LD 529 and am 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,

Richard LaBelle
Town Manager