



# *Town of Jay*

340 Main St • Jay, Maine 04239-1697

Tel: 207-897-6785

Fax: 207-897-9420

## *Office of*

Select Board  
Assessors  
Town Manager  
Treasurer  
Town Clerk  
Planning Board  
Code Administrator

### Written Testimony of the Town of Jay In Opposition to LD 259 - An Act To Increase Waste Handling Fees Imposed on Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris

March 7, 2022

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Shiloh LaFreniere and I am the Town Manager for the Town of Jay. I am providing written testimony in opposition to LD 259.

Our community, like many others, is struggling with the cost of waste disposal. The sharp increase in the amount of material being disposed of since the beginning of the pandemic along with the rising costs of disposal fees as well as significant changes in the recycling industry over the past several years is putting an increased burden on our residents.

As these costs increase, along with the cost of manpower, electricity and general commodities, the facilities that we utilize have no choice but to pass the fees along to the communities that they service. We in turn have no choice but to raise the funds through additional fees to our residents and/or additional property taxes.

The Town of Jay recognized a \$200 million dollar loss in taxable valuation last year due to the catastrophic digester explosion at our paper mill. Our residents saw an immediate 3 mil increase in our tax rate and will likely experience another increase this year. All of our communities are struggling to keep up with the increases and at the same time, we see the struggle that many of our citizens are having due to the same economic stressors.

Please be cognizant of these struggles and vote no on LD 259. Now is not the time to impose these additional fees on our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.