



## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

### **LD 259 An Act To Increase Waste Handling Fees Imposed on the 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 Jim Mitchell and I am here today on behalf of our client Waste Management; WM owns and operates the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock.

Crossroads provides disposal capacity for municipalities and businesses throughout the State of Maine. The majority of waste accepted at Crossroads is special waste, construction and demolition debris and materials or waste used as alternative daily cover. Crossroads also provides MSW disposal capacity for approximately 55 communities in western and central Maine. Following the temporary closure of the Fiberight facility in Hampden, Crossroads has provided necessary disposal services to 115 of the impacted MRC communities. Since 2009, Crossroads' Landfill Gas-to-Energy Plant has been capturing gas released from waste decomposition to generate electricity; the facility generates approximately 21,685,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

Waste Management strongly opposes LD 259 An Act To Increase Waste Handling Fees Imposed on the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris. To impose fee increases of this magnitude at a time when municipalities and the taxpayers they serve are already struggling to accommodate and manage the exponential increases to the cost of sewer and wastewater treatment is wrong. Equally egregious is the fact that LD 259 all but eliminates Maine's two most affluent and populous counties from these increases.

All of Maine cannot access incineration. And even if there were sufficient capacity at the two remaining incineration facilities, how significant to Maine's carbon footprint and the cost of disposal would the transportation of waste from across the state be?

Last week this Committee reconsidered and voted on LD 1911. Sen. Brenner's amendment repealed "the existing \$10/ton fee on the handling of sludge and septage under 38 MRSA §1310-B-1". Today we are hearing a bill which increases the fee to dispose of MSW from \$1 per ton to \$5 per ton; the proposed increase to dispose of CDD and residue from its processing goes from \$2 per ton to \$10 per ton. These are enormously disturbing increases, particularly so given the fact that prior to the passage of LD 57 in the First Regular Session of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature, there was no fee on the disposal of MSW.



In the last weeks you've heard from landfill operators that in order to appropriately and safely dispose of sludge, septage and other wet waste it is absolutely essential to combine with bulky materials, the type of materials found in construction and demolition debris. And yet, LD 259 proposes raising the fee on disposal of these materials from \$2 a ton to \$10 a ton. It is my sincere hope that we never again are faced with managing mountains of discarded debris as we were forced to do with tires.

In closing I would like to commend this Committee and the Legislature on the notable efforts undertaken to rectify situations created as a result of the State of Maine's beneficial reuse program.

I urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 259 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James F. Mitchell