



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony of Shelby D Wright, Manager of Engagement, Casella

In Opposition
LD 259

March 7, 2022

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Shelby Wright, and I am the Eastern Region Manager of Engagement for Casella.

Thank you for the opportunity to address LD 259 “An Act To Increase Waste Handling Fees Imposed on the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris”

Casella is opposed to LD 259.

While it is well established that Reduction is the first and highest goal in the never-ending quest to eliminate waste in our consumer driven society and preserve landfill space, we believe that the proposals in LD 259 do not support Maine’s solid waste hierarchy.

LD 259 removes one of the few incentives to process raw MSW or CDD because it equates the fees for process residuals with unprocessed materials for the purpose of landfill disposal.

We already suffer from a lack of incentives to recycle C&D generated from buildings in Maine. Barely any of the 400,000 annual tons of Maine C&D is recycled. Instead, it is disposed of directly in landfills, in some cases unlined landfills. All of the metal, wood, etc. that could be collected and put to a higher and better purpose is summarily discarded. The Committee would be right to focus its energies on that issue. Unfortunately, this proposal only makes that problem worse.

A more progressive approach would be to separate the fee structure to encourage more processing of materials to limit volumes sent to a landfill.

The proposal also places even more of a financial burden on already stretched municipal waste disposal budgets and disproportionately affects the construction industry in a time when real estate and economically development markets are just beginning to rebound after a long recession in the housing industry.

Please vote ought not to pass on LD 259.

Shelby D Wright
Eastern Region Manager of Engagement, Casella