

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Senator Stacy Brenner, Senate Chair  
Representative Lori Gramlich, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: MSCC testimony opposing L.D. 1660: An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Ben Lucas, I live in Portland, and I represent the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is the voice of Maine business, speaking for approximately 5,000 Maine businesses of all sizes throughout the State. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is submitting testimony in opposition to L.D. 1660.

The Chamber appreciates the effort of the Legislature and this committee to protect various communities across Maine as it pertains to the solid waste hierarchy. Our members are committed to protecting the environment by ensuring that products manufactured are recycled properly and safely. Unfortunately, we do have some concerns with the proposed legislation before you today. Advanced recycling has a valid place in the plastic recovery value stream. Being able to break down complex, and hard to recycle components and then being able to recover them and use them for new products or packaging is a positive. Banning it or limiting it would make it more difficult to recover already existing plastic waste, and we feel if L.D. 1660 were to pass, it could negatively impact our members and how they look to the future to address recycling and packaging.

Additionally, advanced recycling offers environmental benefits by remaking more used plastics into brand new plastics. Advanced recycling diverts plastics from landfill and decreases greenhouse gas emissions associated with virgin plastic production. It also takes more of the 90% of plastics that are not recycled today and remaking them into new plastics. With advanced recycling technologies, more types of plastics can be recycled compared to traditional recycling technologies, including some mixed and soiled plastics. We feel advanced recycling creates economic opportunities by allowing used plastic to become valuable new products all while creating jobs and encouraging investment in the state. Companies all over the country are investing billions of dollars in these types of recycling facilities.

In closing, we have seen a strong national push across the country from both republicans and democrats to recognize advanced recycling as a form of manufacturing. I believe 24 other states have adopted legislation – from our neighboring state of New Hampshire – to a larger state such as Illinois. We believe this would be a better approach for us to take rather than what is proposed in L.D. 1660, which states that advanced recycling facilities are not recycling facilities for the purposes of regulating solid waste, it would subject advanced recycling facilities to solid waste regulations. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to try and answer any questions and bring back additional information for the work session if needed.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin R. Lucas  
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