

Katelyn Estes  
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Good afternoon

I am writing to support LD 1074 to permit the Conduct of Open Air Cremation at Designated Scattering sites.

As a Licensed Funeral Director, I have worked in several areas in the State of Maine and have always been drawn to more natural forms of disposition, especially those that are better for the environment. I have read about the Open Air pyres in Colorado, and I feel it is an excellent option to offer to Mainers in addition to traditional burial and cremation. I believe people who choose this method of disposition will like how deeply personal and peaceful this method is. I have worked with several families in the past who have desired being present for the cremation of a loved one. Open air cremations would allow families to gather and be there for their loved one, being part of a beautiful and sacred ceremony. This is an option I know will provide an immense amount of healing and peace to grieving people. The West Coast is demonstrating how the funeral industry is changing rapidly, and it's time that Maine started offering options not only better for the environment, but also better for the People who live here.