



JANETT. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

April 6, 2021

Senator Chip Curry, Chair
Representative Tiffany Roberts, Chair
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
Cross Building, Room 202
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: L.D. 1223 - An Act To Allow Crematories Using Chemical Dissolution Processes in Facilities Other Than Cemeteries

Dear Senator Curry and Representative Roberts:

The Department is aware from experience with a crematory using a chemical dissolution process that the characteristics of the liquid discharge from this process needs to be considered.

We are aware that the liquid discharge may have a high pH (which can be neutralized) and a high temperature. It is important that any liquid discharge from this process be done in accordance with state law to ensure water quality is not impacted, and with the local sewer use ordinance to ensure the local wastewater treatment facility and its workers are not impacted.

Therefore, if a decision is made to move regulatory oversight to the Funeral Board, I am requesting that the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Subsurface Program be consulted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Funeral Service during the rulemaking process specified in Section 2 of the bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Kavanah
Director, Bureau of Water Quality

Cc: Amy Lachance, Director, Drinking Water Program, DHHS
Jennifer Hawk, Regulatory Board Manager, DPFR

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