



Brunswick Sewer District

10 PINE TREE ROAD

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MAY 17, 2021

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

**LD 1639: AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF MAINE COMMUNITIES AND
REDUCE HARMFUL SOLID WASTE**

GOOD MORNING SENATE CHAIR BRENNER AND REPRESENTATIVE CHAIR TUCKER, AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

MY NAME IS LEONARD BLANCHETTE, GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT. I OFFER THIS TESTIMONY IN RESPECTFUL OPPOSITION TO LD 1639, AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF MAINE COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE HARMFUL SOLID WASTE.

AS A PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS, OUR MISSION IS TO REMOVE THE SOLIDS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES' WASTEWATER. AND IN OUR HUMBLE OPINION, WE DO THAT QUITE WELL. REMOVING UP TO 95% OF THE SOLIDS. ON AVERAGE OVER 2,500 TONS ANNUALLY. IN 2020, IMPACTED BY COVID-19, OUR BIOSOLIDS REMOVAL WAS DOWN TO 2,200 TONS. WE FULLY EXPECT THAT TO INCREASE AS THE ECONOMY AND SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OPEN BACK UP TO FULL TIME ATTENDANCE.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LD 1639 IS THAT IT WILL LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF OUR BIOSOLIDS WE TAKE TO A COMPOST FACILITY FOR RECYCLING. THAT THE FACILITY CANNOT ACCEPT MORE THAN IT DID THE PREVIOUS YEAR. AND THE RESTRICTIONS IN LD 1639 ALSO APPLIES TO LANDFILLS, WHICH IS THE ONLY OTHER OPTION AVAILABLE TO US. OUR ONLY OTHER OPTION WILL BE TO TRUCK OUR EXCESS BIOSOLIDS OUT-OF-STATE. AS WE CANNOT LAND APPLY, OUR RATEPAYERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEVERLY IMPACTED BY THE PFAS/PFOS SITUATION BY ABSORBING THE HIGHER COST TO TAKE TO A COMPOST FACILITY. WITH LD 1639, THEY WILL NOW BE PAYING AN EXCESSIVE COST FOR US TO TRUCK OUT-OF-STATE.



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THE NEW PUBLIC LAW CHAPTER 619 WAS ENACTED TO HELP PRESERVE LANDFILL SPACE BY ENCOURAGING INCREASED RECYCLING. THIS BILL APPEARS TO BE IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THAT LEGISLATION. GIVE P.L. 619 TIME TO BE IMPLEMENTED. IN 2024 MDEP MUST REPORT BACK TO THE LEGILATURE CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF P.L. 619.

WE URGE THE COMMITTEE TO VOTE AN “OUGHT NOT TO PASS” FOR LD 1639.

THANK YOU.