



City of Auburn, Maine

Office of the City Manager

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May 13, 2021

The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine State Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Regarding: **LD 1639: An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste**

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Leroy Walker. I am a lifelong resident of Auburn, Maine. I worked for the City for 39 years and I have been the Ward 5 Councilman now for 10 years. In my role as City Councilor, I serve as president of the Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation and chairperson of the Mayor's Committee on Age-Friendly Community. I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to LD 1639.

The ReSource Waste Services facility in Lewiston has been a wonderful corporate citizen and it is an important partner to the City of Auburn in many ways. Every other year, the City of Auburn does a three-week cleanup for residents, accepting curbside bulky waste. In 2019, ReSource Waste was the low bidder and processed 760 tons of our residents' waste at a very reasonable rate. We are halfway through the project this year, and ReSource Waste has already taken 360 tons and 891 mattresses, so the total is expected to be higher this year.

ReSource Waste also processes our wood waste from Auburn at a very cheap rate. In 2020, the facility processed 515 tons of wood waste from Auburn. ReSource Waste is the only C&D processor around, and I think it is important that our community's waste be recycled as much as possible because it is preferable to incineration or landfilling.

In addition to taking our community's waste, ReSource Waste has been a consistent donor to the City's Age-Friendly Community, which is a program that assists citizens of all ages who are in need. The company helps us put on our annual Thanksgiving dinner, which we offer to anybody and everybody. ReSource has a reputation for helping to feed people in need, and we need this help now more than ever before. In fact, last March when the pandemic was leading to many shutdowns, ReSource Waste sent emergency funds to the Age-Friendly Community Committee and the Auburn Police Activities League to provide food to members of our community who were experiencing financial hardship.

I know that ReSource worked with legislators and other parties to finalize LD 401 last year, and that the company has already spent over \$1.5 million to order new equipment so it can improve its recycling rate and meet the standards that were set in LD 401. This new legislation would unfairly move the goal posts and ruin the company financially, forcing it out of business.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy G. Walker".

Leroy Walker
Ward 5 Councilor
City of Auburn