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Kathy Tarbuck, Project Manager
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Dear Ms Tarbuck, Commissioner Mercer, and Director Miller,

The Town of Oakland has been an indirect member of the MRC since 1998. Oakland joined the MRC under the City of Waterville's membership/contract and has been sending our MSW to PERC ever since.

Like other towns, when we learned of the upcoming rate increases that was going into effect at the end of PERC's 30 year electric contract, we started to look at other solutions for our MSW. We assembled a steering committee and we quickly learned that our options were limited to landfills or antiquated power generation facilities. We found that the landfills had a finite lifespan and the power generation facilities were close to, if not already at maximum capacity.

We started to listen to what the MRC had to say about Fiberight as a solution to the high cost of MSW disposal beyond PERC. We studied the Fiberight process and found that there was merit behind its ideology. We felt that the time was right to support this new process for MSW in the State of Maine. Our research has shown us that even though the process was new to Maine and even the U.S., it was being successfully utilized in Europe.

Personally, I have attended almost every MRC Board meeting over the past two years. I have listened to the methodical steps that the MRC used to vet the Fiberight process and felt comfortable enough with the MRC boards abilities and due diligence, that I voted to support the Oakland steering committee's decision to support and promote this new way of processing our MSW. Unfortunately not all of the original MRC communities had that same foresight, and due to this, they have signed contracts with other MSW facilities, Waterville and Winslow included. This has resulted in a loss of valuable MSW tonnage that was not anticipated and has strained Fiberight's financial viability.

The CRM/Fiberight processing facility provides the opportunity for MSW within eastern and central Maine to achieve a new level of diversion of MSW from land filling. I think that we should all be supporting the recovery of materials that will be recycled and used for other purposes. This truly represents the future of successful waste management.

CRM/Fiberight and Pine Tree Waste have come to an agreement that Pine Tree Waste will deliver at least 40,000 tons of commercial MSW per year to the CRM/Fiberight facility located in Hampden. This will help balance the waste supply in the winter months when MSW tonnage is at its lowest point.

Given the importance of the success of the CRM/Fiberight projects to the remaining 115 member communities, I support and respectfully request that the Department approves the amendment application in a timely manner. Doing so will undoubtedly support the opportunity for CRM/Fiberight to succeed in the long-term.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Bowman
Town Manager, Oakland Maine