



ESTABLISHED 1975

September 12, 2024

Karen Knuuti
Division of Materials Management
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
06 Hogan Road
Bangor, Maine 04401

Re: NEWSME Landfill Operations, LLC
Application for Determination of Public Benefit

Dear Ms. Knuuti:

Please accept this letter in support of the NEWSME Landfill Operations, LLC Application for Determination of Public Benefit, providing supplemental information concerning the issues discussed below.

Leadership role - PFAS (e.g. per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

Casella is currently testing foam fractionation technology at our landfill facility in Vermont. The Vermont project is one of the first on-site PFAS pretreatment systems at a landfill in the country. Early results of these efforts show a reduction of 96% to 99% of four out of the five regulated PFAS compounds. Reducing levels of the fifth PFAS regulated compound is proving more difficult, with fluctuating reductions averaging 66%. While we recognize that there is room for improvement, we are committed to build from what we are seeing in Vermont, and to finding ways to improve and grow our efforts in this area. To that end, we have partnered with the University of Vermont to form an alliance aimed at researching and evaluating PFAS management strategies, and will look to partner in a similar fashion with other educational institutions along the east coast, including Maine. We would intend our efforts and the results of research and partnerships like this to provide benefits to our customers, including those in Maine, as well as the general public.

Scholarship Program

Casella is committed to funding a scholarship program that would provide financial assistance to fund post-secondary education as discussed in our public benefit submission. In addition to providing a funding commitment of \$5,000.00 per year over the ten year expansion term, we would also pledge to provide Casella staff to assist with forming a stakeholder group or committee and helping to guide and determine the details around scholarship administration and the award process, grounded in feedback received from the host communities and other stakeholders. We believe that the best framework for a scholarship program can be built by taking into account the thoughts, ideas, and wishes of the communities that would benefit from the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional detail in connection with our submission. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Casella", is written over a circular stamp.

John W. Casella
Chief Executive Officer