

Linda J. Butler
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Ms. Butler.

I am writing to express our strong support for Waste Management's proposal to expand its Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock, Maine.

As you may know, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce is an organization representing a diverse group of businesses across Maine, both large and small. With a network of approximately 5,000 businesses and employers across the state our members make up virtually every segment of Maine's economy.

The Crossroads Landfill serves a critical need for reliable and cost-effective waste disposal and recycling solutions for Maine businesses and communities. It operates a safe and secure landfill and provides outstanding customer service. Consistent with the state's waste hierarchy, Waste Management works to reduce the volume of waste that must be landfilled and has proposed a number of initiatives that will reduce and recycle material that would otherwise require disposal.

The Crossroads Landfill has also had a significant positive economic impact in the region. In addition to property taxes, and host benefit payments and free disposal to the Town of Norridgewock, we estimate that capital investments in the facility generally have a six-fold benefit to the regional economy. We understand from Waste Management that its investment in the existing permitted facility has reached almost \$95 million, which translates to a regional economic benefit of more than \$569 million. Its proposed expansion represents an additional almost \$50 million, which translates to a regional benefit of close to \$300 million over the life of the project.

Maine cannot afford to reduce waste disposal options, which would result in significant additional costs to Maine communities and businesses, nor should Maine ignore the significant economic benefits that would result from the proposed expansion of the Crossroads Facility. The expansion is necessary to meet the State's capacity needs, is consistent with the State's waste hierarchy, and will result in significant economic benefits to the region.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,


Dana F. Connors
President
Maine State Chamber of Commerce