



Maine Resource Recovery Association
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Paula Clark
Maine DEP
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017
rulecomments.dep@maine.gov

Re: Chapter 400: Maine Solid Waste Management Potential Rule Change

June 5, 2020

Dear Ms. Clark,

My name is Victor Horton, and I am the Executive Director of Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA).

The MRRA was formed in 1984 with solid waste and recycling issues in mind. We are a non-profit organization with a mission to foster professional solid waste management practices that will benefit Maine communities. Our members number just over 160 cities and towns including 60 transfer stations and recycling centers. MRRA markets recyclables, provides transportation, administers revenue sharing among the towns, and performs other solid waste and recycling services including an annual solid waste and recycling conference and an annual backyard composter sale to name just two.

We are writing today in support of a citizen petition to initiate rulemaking to amend the Chapter 400: Maine Solid Waste Management Rules to: "clarify requirements for Public Benefit Determinations relating to approval of waste facilities, by ensuring that the definition of "waste that is generated within the State" accurately describes the sources of waste materials disposed of in the State. The rule change would update waste management rules to close a loophole in the definition of Maine-generated waste.

Currently, a loophole in the state's waste regulations allows out-of-state waste to be funneled through processing facilities in Maine and become classified as Maine-generated waste. It is estimated that 40% of waste disposed at the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) originates from outside Maine. Most of the imported waste is classified as construction and demolition debris (CDD), which has been banned from disposal in Massachusetts landfills.

This bill would ensure that CDD which ends up in a landfill, including as Alternative Daily Cover, (ADC) is not counted toward the State's recycling goals. Alternative Daily Cover is not recycling, any more than incinerator ash used as ADC is recycling and should not be counted as such when assessing the recycling goals of the state. Recognizing the difficulty and cost of siting

or expanding a special waste landfill, we want JRL to serve as a landfill for Maine communities and Maine businesses, not as the default option for Massachusetts waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Horton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "V".

Victor Horton
Executive Director
MRRA