

MRRA Testimony for Chapter 428 under review

August 23, 2024

Dear Committee members:

I would like to submit comments about certain parts of the proposed rules. MRRA is committed to sound solid waste practices. This endeavor helps move this goal along in a very positive way and encourages more recycling in the State of Maine.

We just have a few comments and suggestions with regards to the rule making on Chapter 428.

Page 2 Definitions A: There is a penalty if a town or municipality uses a landfill for disposal for certain difficult to recycle packaging rather than an incinerator.

This is inherently unfair and places a burden on many of our member towns that do not have access to incinerators and when these facilities were built many towns were just too far to use them economically. So, there was and still is a question of uneven access. Accessibility is a serious issue.

Is there capacity at the currently at existing incinerators so all Mainers can use them? Indication is that all operating facilities are either at or over capacity with what waste they now handle.

Many towns especially in southern Maine, that used MERC in Biddeford before it closed must go to a landfill with their waste as nearby incinerators are at or over capacity. It seems that their revenue share is not addresses at all.

The goal of this program is to include all towns and help with disposal costs. If we don't change those rules to include them I fear they likely won't participate.

The Hierarchy states that disposal in a landfill is allowed under Maine Law. For these materials with little value in the existing marketplace, would it not be more equitable to direct disposal options based on distance, capacity, and contracts at the time of recycling or disposal?

Page 52 Defining Municipal Reimbursement Section D. (1): This page clearly states that if a town does not incinerate, they receive 1/3 of the revenue that towns that incinerate will receive. This relates to the previous comment on page 2 of the rules, and is inherently unfair to municipalities not within the economically feasible orbit of an incinerator and should be reconsidered. Perhaps use actual tip fees paid since, again, the point of this effort is to shrink the volume of material to zero.

Is the state willing to provide guaranteed and cost-effective access to incineration facilities to for all Maine towns so we may incinerate and save landfill space?

The punitive revenue reduction ignores the fact that we are far from this ideal and that achieving it is beyond the scope of individual municipal government. Under the proposed rule municipalities are being punished for circumstances beyond their control.

Respectfully submitted



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Executive Director