

**MRC Comments for Juniper Ridge Landfill Amendment
Application to Allow Disposal of Unprocessed MSW at JRL beyond
March 31, 2018**

- Commissioner Mercer, Eastern Maine Regional Office Director Miller, and additional representatives from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Juniper Ridge Landfill Amendment Application to Allow Disposal of Unprocessed MSW at JRL beyond March 31, 2018.

- My name is Greg Louder, and I am the Executive Director of the Municipal Review Committee, Inc. I speak this evening in support of the amendment application under your consideration. A number of speakers from MRC member communities have provided testimony with detailed points in support of the amendment application. There is no use in my repeating their good work.

- As have other interested persons, the MRC has carefully monitored the regulatory framework governing the operation of JRL since state ownership and oversight began in 2003. MRC has always supported a regulatory framework to keep landfilling of MSW at JRL to a practical minimum. On many occasions, MRC had concerns in common with other interested persons with regard to unprocessed MSW permitted for disposal at JRL.

- MRC's core beliefs on MSW landfilling have held strong since 2003. We believe that MSW should only be landfilled at JRL in cases where it serves to support the processing of MSW over the long term. We believe that the landfilling of MSW should follow the state hierarchy. We believe a key function of JRL in support of MSW processing is its availability to serve as safety net for any MSW that cannot be processed for any reason, including a processing facility transition. We believe that this application is consistent with our core beliefs.

- Considering the current state of*
- ~~The facts and circumstances that comprise~~ today's integrated solid waste management system, ^{ITS} make the strongest case to date that approval of an amendment of this nature is the prudent course of action. Our 115 towns, their residents and businesses, and their solid waste service providers are down to the wire with regard to a once-in-a-generation transition from one processing facility to another. The timely approval of this amendment application is critical to ensure a complete and successful transition is carried out and that public health and safety risks that would otherwise arise are avoided.
 - Therefore, I respectfully request that the Department approve the amendment application in a timely manner. Thank you for your time this evening.