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July 5, 2016

Ms. Julie M. Churchill, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection  
By Electronic Mail

Dear Ms. Churchill:

An article in this morning's Bangor Daily News reported that today is the final day for the public to submit comments regarding the Municipal Review Committee / Fiberight proposal for construction and operation of a solid waste processing facility in Hampden.

The DEP should not issue any license in this matter, and should withhold any future action on this application, until a full public hearing on this project has been held. The Department made a serious mistake last fall when it was decided not to hold public hearings on this matter. The many public letters, editorials, op-ed pieces, town meetings, press releases, radio programs, and public statements pro and con quite amply substantiate that this is a project of great public interest, of statewide significance, and that fundamental questions and concerns are held by public officials and everyday citizens that make this project problematic in the extreme. Whereas the Department does have discretion as to when public hearings should be held, all of the Chapter 2 criteria for establishing that a project does merit BEP jurisdiction or a public hearing have been met. You will do no service to future waste planning for our region and state, nor will you be in support of the statutory solid waste hierarchy, if you proceed to issue a license in this matter.

By now you have received much credible, conflicting, technical (and financial) information casting doubt on the viability of this technology and waste management plan. The forces at work that are driving this effort are still only barely grasped by the public and probably even by the Department as regulator. Please take a step back from approving this misconceived project, and begin the process again by convening much-needed, for-the-record public hearings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
(signed)  
Paul C. Schroeder