



131 River Road • Madison, Maine 04950

September 24, 2018

Department of Environmental Protection  
Linda Butler  
Licensing and Compliance Specialist  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Crossroads Expansion – Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Butler:

For over a decade, Backyard Farms has prided itself on growing some of the finest fresh tomatoes commercially available from our greenhouses in Madison, Maine. Our facility spans 42 acres, employs roughly 230 individuals and produces approximately 27-28 million pounds of tomatoes annually. Since our start in 2007, the Crossroads Facility, our neighbor just down the road, has provided Backyard Farms with disposal services that have been critical to our company's continued growth and success.

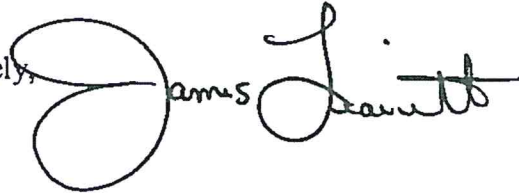
Backyard Farms recently learned that the Crossroads Facility is in the process of applying to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to expand its facility. We understand that the Department is currently weighing the benefit provided to the public by an expansion at the Crossroads Facility. We are writing to express our strong support for the Crossroads application and our belief that an expansion at the Crossroads Facility would most certainly serve as a benefit to the citizens and businesses of Maine.

Crossroads provides Backyard Farms with disposal services that are innovative and environmentally sound. Both aspects are critical for our business and our brand. Crossroads manages our tomato waste, leaves, and vines, MSW, POTW sludge and construction and demolition debris. Given the intensive nature of our planting and harvesting, this requires around-the-clock, seven-days-a-week, disposal services multiple times a year. Only a disposal company located just over ten miles away could provide this seamless service and do so with such a minimal carbon footprint. Through its expansion, Crossroads is also considering the launch of a unique composting program which would provide another opportunity for collaboration between Backyard Farms and Crossroads.

Finally, Crossroads also plays a beneficial role in its community and the local economy. Crossroads has been a strong supporter of local initiatives and just like Backyard Farms, is

dedicated to employing the hard-working and passionate citizens of Somerset County. The loss of Crossroads in this community would create a tangible and serious void.

For all of the reasons stated above, Backyard Farms encourages the Department to approve Crossroads' Public Benefit Determination Application and to move forward with the facility expansion.

Sincerely,  James Smith