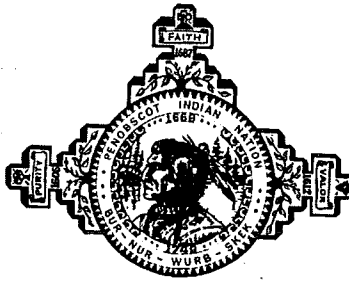


# PENOBSCOT NATION

DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

JOHN S. BANKS, DIRECTOR



Testimony  
of  
John S. Banks

In Support of LD 401

## An Act to Preserve State Landfill Capacity and Promote Recycling

Senator Carson, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, my name is John Banks and I am the Director of Natural Resources with the Penobscot Indian Nation, a position I've held since 1980 when the Maine Indian Land Claims act was enacted. As the Natural Resources Director for my tribe I have been responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive natural resources management program for Penobscot Tribal landholdings.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources is the conservation and protection of our traditional territory, so that future generations of Penobscot citizens can continue to practice the cultural traditions that our ancestors have handed down for 10,000-12,000 years. The benefits of our land and resource conservation practices extend well beyond our tribe.

As a former member of Juniper Ridge Landfill Advisory Committee I have gained a fairly good understanding of Maine's waste management policies, regulations, and laws. And what I have come to learn about the way Maine governs waste has been nothing short of DISASTEROUS!!

We have a situation where wastes originating beyond Maines borders become redefined, in law, as in-state wastes, certain materials that are landfilled get counted toward Maine's recycling goals turning the waste hierarchy on its head, the State agency that's charged with monitoring a state owned landfill cannot even determine the origin of much of the waste landfilled there, and the leachate from a State owned landfill is dumped into the Penobscot River without adequate testing or treatment, possibly impacting Penobscot Nation sustenance fishing practices. These issues are a few of the many problems you will hear about today.

You, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee have the opportunity today to begin to correct some of these egregious impacts, and put our State on a much healthier path toward management of Maine's wastes.

Please support LD 401.

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