

Testimony in Support of LD 401: --An Act to Preserve State Landfill Capacity and Promote Recycling.

April 3, 2019

To The Honorable Senator Brownie Carson, (chair) and Honorable Representative Ralph Tucker (chair), and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources:

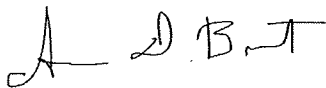
I am Anne D. (Andy) Burt, of Edgecomb, a decades long educator and program director for several nonprofit and environmental organizations concerned about climate change and energy choices in Maine. I also serve as a member on the Friends (Quakers) Committee on Maine Public Policy that has for decades been concerned about improving state-tribal relations and criminal/restorative justice. I write today as a concerned citizen who has followed the hearings around the Juniper Ridge Landfill and its potential deleterious impact on the Penobscot River watershed and her residents, including the sovereign Penobscot Nation and the animal and plant wildlife, who make their home along the river. **I strongly support LD 401.**

I am aware that this committee will soon be considering an upgrade in water quality classification for the Penobscot River and other water bodies in Maine. This will come as a bill submitted and supported by the Department of Environmental Protection. In light of this fact, I believe it is important to track, monitor, reclassify and reduce waste destined for Maine landfills as this bill proposes to do as an "upstream" measure. The rivers, (and eventually the ocean where we now are discovering entire dead zones due to our habits of toxics waste disposal) and river residents have long been environmental sacrifice zones and those people are paying the price with poor health and the inability to feed themselves from a clean river.

I also know there is interest in going through the process of once again making the Penobscot River and other water bodies, where sovereign tribes and nations have traditionally fished and gathered medicines as part of their treaty-protected rights, safe for subsistence fishing. Governor Mills and DEP Commissioner Reid have both stated that they are interested in developing partnerships with the tribes and nations and moving away from litigation over water quality and rights. This bill and those that will be coming before you would seem to be components of beginning a new relationship as well as protecting the environment for us all.

Please vote **Ought to Pass on LD 401**. It's part of a comprehensive plan that will improve the quality of life and well-being for all Mainers.

Respectfully submitted,



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