

Roebuck, Caleb

From: Maria Girouard <sacredhomelands@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 9:47 AM
To: Tucker, Ralph; Carson, Brownie; Chenette, Justin; Foley, Robert; Devin, Michael; Fay, Jessica; Zeigler, StanleyPaige; Gramlich, Lori; Hobbs, Daniel; Campbell, Richard; Lyford, Peter; Skolfield, Thomas; Johansen, Chris; Roebuck, Caleb
Subject: Support LD401 - Vacationland, Homelands, or Wasteland?

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment and Natural Resources committee, I am contacting you today to urge your support for LD401 A Bill to Reform Waste Policy in Maine.

I am Penobscot woman living on Indian Island, looking out on the beautiful Penobscot River everyday. I have also been closely involved with efforts to watch dog the ever disturbing Juniper Ridge Landfill debacle for over a decade now. This enormous mountain of trash, mostly generated from out-of-state, is trucked into our homelands and dumped in the heart of Penobscot watershed all day every day. Juniper Ridge Landfill is situated between Pushaw Stream and Birch Stream, both tributaries to the Penobscot, entering the River just West and North of Indian Island, and both streams of great importance to tribal members traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering. In fact, our tribe has significant landholdings along Birch Stream in Argyle.

There is a tremendous group of citizens from Indian Island, Old Town, Orono, Argyle, and beyond who have come together time and again to discuss strategies to curb the ever growing mountain of trash that, in my opinion, is a tremendous threat to the water. Particularly discouraging during this era where water is becoming realized as a sacred necessity for all life while at the same time being disrespected, befouled, and degraded.

The issues associated with JRL, a STATE-OWNED landfill are plenty and are enormous. All of us who cherish clean water urge you to support LD401 and vote ought to pass. While you all likely had little to do with the creation of the waste related issues, having inherited it, or perhaps, like many, you have no idea about the long and convoluted history of this dump and other efforts to dump on the citizens in this area (for example, a few years back there was a gallant effort to site yet another dump, the MRC alongside Birch Stream) but you now have the opportunity to do something about it. LD401 is a perfect place to start.

Sincerely,

All my relations,

Maria Girouard

Penobscot Tribal Citizen

Indian Island, ME