

Jane Herbert  
DAMARISCOTTA  
LD 1604

April 26, 2025

To: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Senator Denise Tepler, Chair

Senator Stacy Brenner, Senator Joseph E. Martin

In support of LD 1349

In support of LD 1604

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Treating leachate on-site for PFAS removal as outlined in LD 1604 is a rational and hopeful response to the dilemma toxic PFAS present. I am proud of our legislature for taking national leadership by banning the spreading of Maine farmland with PFAS laden municipal sludge. Adoption of LD1604 will stem the pollution and safeguard Maine's rivers, lakes and water supplies from contaminated landfill leachate.

Commercially proven options for treating leachate at the landfill for PFAS removal are available, as outlined in 'Waste Today'. These include granular activated carbon (GAC) following biological treatment of leachate through a membrane bioreactor or similar conventional leachate treatment system. High-pressure reverse osmosis (RO) is another commercially proven process for PFAS leachate treatment that does not require leachate pretreatment through a membrane bioreactor (MBR) or similar conventional wastewater treatment process, according to industry experts. Another promising treatment for the effective removal of PFAS from raw leachate is foam fractionation, which generates a relatively low volume of residue compared with other concentration methods, experts say. Ion exchange (IX) is likely to work in this capacity as well but has not been demonstrated yet to do so. All of these treatment options produce concentrated PFAS residuals that must be disposed of in hazardous waste landfills or destroyed to remove them from the environment.

Whichever system is chosen to treat landfill leachate it will face funding challenges, however, addressing PFAS at landfills is more effective and less expensive than cleaning up downstream contamination. The cost of treatment must be weighed against the cost to our collective health; human, environmental and moral.

I urge you to support this critical legislation with a unanimous 'ought to pass' decision.

Respectfully,

Jane Herbert

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