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LD 297

I urge legislators to reject LD 297 and uphold Maine's commitment to responsible waste management. Responsible waste management requires placing the public good over private profit through the use of a rational appraisal of any bill's elements.

The State's in-place Solid Waste Management Hierarchy has to be enforced. Casella's drive to profit from landfilling as much as possible undermines that legal duty: Previous legislation, LD 1639, was enacted to ensure Juniper Ridge Landfill was reserved for in-state waste, and LD 297 redefines in-state waste and will have the State subsidizing disposal of New England's waste in our only active, state-owned landfill.

Moreover, expanding Juniper Ridge Landfill encroaches on the land of the Penobscot Nation, poisoning the Penobscot River with leachate of "PFAS" chemicals.

Unfortunately, the Penobscot Nation is already unduly burdened by over half of the State's garbage being disposed of at Juniper Ridge Landfill. This situation is a form of environmental injustice, inequitably concentrating waste disposal near the Penobscot Nation. LD 297 would materially worsen that injustice.

LD 297 runs counter to the public good; therefore, I urge legislators to REJECT LD 297 and uphold Maine's commitment to responsible waste management.