

**Testimony before the  
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Nora Bosworth  
Conservation Law Foundation  
April 28, 2025**

**RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1349 – An Act to ...**

Good morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Nora Bosworth, and I am a Staff Attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). CLF's mission is to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in Maine and throughout New England.

CLF enthusiastically supports LD 1349, which would require legislative approval for any contract or contract renewal for the operation of the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL).

The Operating Services Agreement (“the contract”) for JRL is between the Bureau of General Services (BGS) and Casella. The bill should be amended to reflect this, but the motivation and spirit of the bill are absolutely correct. For years, the public has watched Casella attempt to strong-arm the State to benefit Casella's profits at Mainers' expense. LD 1349 would give the public greater input into the terms governing this state-owned landfill.

In 2022, Mainers pushed to close a legal loophole that allowed Casella to fill up about one-third of JRL with construction waste from Massachusetts. Casella vehemently opposed the reform, claiming that it would force the closure of the ReSource processing facility in Lewiston, ME. Nevertheless, LD 1639 passed, and the ReSource facility remains open.

During the “Sludge Crisis” of 2023, Casella put Maine on the brink of a public health crisis by refusing to receive more sewage sludge unless the State allowed them to bring in 235,000 tons of out-of-state construction waste annually. The public and the Legislature pushed back, asking for proof that such a high volume was necessary. Casella ultimately revised its request to 25,000 tons a year, revealing their initial demand was profit-driven, not need-based.

Last year, when Casella first sought to expand JRL, it tried to pressure the State into guaranteeing a renewed contract before completing the legally required procedural review. Thanks to public and legislative resistance, Casella proceeded with the legally required stages of the expansion process without such a guarantee. Now, through LD 297, Casella is trying once again to undo the protections of LD 1639, and reopen JRL to out-of-state waste.



Casella's business model depends on burying as much waste as possible, incentivizing it to prioritize profit over the health of Mainers and the protection of our environment. Time and again, it has fallen to the public and the Legislature to defend Maine's natural resources and communities against these pressures.

LD 1349 would provide another important check—ensuring that the company operating Maine's most active landfill complies with our laws, regulations, and Solid Waste Management Hierarchy.

We urge this committee to vote **ought to pass** on LD 1349.

Respectfully submitted,

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