

Edward Nachamie  
Orono, ME  
LD 297  
Monday, April 28th, 2025

To: Representative William Bridgeo, and honorable members of the committee,  
From: Edward Nachamie

Re: Testimony in Opposition to An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants

I am a concerned student living in Orono, Maine studying Ecology and Environmental Sciences. I am writing to oppose the passage of LD 297 because of the dangers which expansion of waste management in Maine poses to human health and the environment. This bill would roll back a previous provision to prohibit out of state waste from getting trucked into Maine and processed at a landfill facility. In a state with diminishing landfill capacity, we can't afford to make Maine taxpayers subsidize New England's waste stream. Additionally, the increase in waste being received at state-owned landfill facilities poses an environmental justice risk. Much of this new out-of-state waste would go to the Juniper Ridge Landfill. This facility is near the Penobscot Nation at Indian Island in Old Town, and the Nation has experienced environmental injustices - air and water pollution, PFAS leakage, health effects, and more from its proximity. More waste could mean more opportunities for pollution and health concerns. Fires from Juniper Ridge in 2023 sent toxic smoke and ash into the air, forcing nearby residents to endure burning eyes, sore throats, and dangerous air pollution. We shouldn't be increasing the state's capacity for more of these events to happen. We should be focused on increasing the safety of our landfills, not expanding them. Please oppose and ensure that LD 297 does not pass.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Nachamie