

April 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am a resident of Old Town, Maine writing to you to strongly object to LD 29: *An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants*.

This bill is a blatant attempt to permit importing waste from other states to Maine, most likely for disposal at Juniper Ridge Landfill, the largest, state-owned landfill in Maine. The definitions used in the bill are designed to deceive the source of waste, and the bill reverses the protections of LD 1639 and would allow thousands of tons of out of state waste to flow back into Maine. I urge you to reject this bill today.

Residents of Old Town, surrounding towns, and the Penobscot Nation have been bearing the brunt of poor waste policies for many years. Our communities experience the water pollution and intermittent air pollution from fires at Juniper Ridge, yet our political process does not allow our concerns to be addressed. This bill would make the current situation far worse by reopening loopholes to allow multistate waste companies to reap huge profits bringing waste from other states to Juniper Ridge by disguising minimally processed, highly toxic construction and demolitions debris as “Maine made” after being minimally processed in Maine and used for landfill cover. Juniper Ridge is Maine’s only active, state-owned landfill, and was always intended to be for Maine’s waste alone (see 38 M.R.S. § 1310-N(11)).

Casella Waste Systems would be the primary beneficiary of LD297 if enacted, and Maine communities would be the primary victim. Casella also is loudest voice claiming that out of state waste from Massachusetts and New Hampshire is needed to offset what claim to be a “sludge crisis” requiring bulky waste to manage. Rather than develop an environmentally sustainable approach to sludge and toxic sludge leachate, the company prefers to push for expanding the size of its landfill and bringing in enormous amounts of out of state waste. The real reason for this is the enormous profit the company makes from waste disposal at the expense of the Penobscot River, surrounding land, and the health of all of us who live here.

In fact, Casella is already under suspicion for its waste management practices. On February 14, 2025, the Government Oversight Committee voted 10 to 1 to investigate its management of Juniper Ridge Landfill, including how well it is actually abiding by eliminating out of state waste, whether it is following the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy, and how the State might exercise more control to protect public health and the environment. Conveniently, **LD297 would be retroactive to 2023, raising serious concerns about what Casella has already been doing at Juniper Ridge without**

adequate oversight. Passing LD297 in this context would completely undermine the current investigation and the need to hold Casella to account for its practices.

Fundamentally, this is an issue of environmental justice and not putting profit over public health and the health of the environment. It is the responsibility of the Maine Legislature to protect the people of Maine and the land and water from being exploited for the sake of corporate profit. Maine residents and the Penobscot Nation should not be subsidizing or enabling New England's waste management problem. We need better waste policies to protect the land and water of Maine from waste generated here in Maine- not enable other states to avoid dealing with this issue at our expense. Our communities are not interested in and do not consent to being New England's waste management sacrifice zone. For the sake of environmental justice and common sense, I urge you to reject LD 297.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daisy', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Daisy Goodman

Old Town, Maine