

JANE HERBERT  
DAMARISCOTTA  
LD 1349

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

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

In the current climate of financial uncertainty in respect to federal funding for Maine it is prudent to act with care in regard to stewardship of State's financial and physical resources. LD 1349 prevents long-term contracts from being negotiated or renewed without input from elected officials instead of corporate interests alone.

The current rules and laws have allowed those interests to be successful in pushing contracts and agreements to their advantage. The operator of the Juniper Ridge Landfill has undermined the will of Maine citizens and the legislature in regard to out of state waste. The corporation created a crises for Maine municipalities and forced a work around loophole arrangement to reclassify out of state waste after minimal processing in Casella's Lewiston facility.

Currently there is a push by the corporate operator to expand Juniper Ridge Landfill. It is arguable that the considerable tonnage of out of state waste imported by that same operator has (and, through the legal loophole) continues to strain the bounds of our state resource. LD 1349 provides for record keeping and review revealing the tonnage and sources of waste – essential information for proper management and future planning.

Serious persistent concerns at the landfill demand action. Concerns about health and safety as well as reports of fires and noxious odors must be resolved before any contract is issued or renewed. Maine cannot rely on corporate interests to remedy these on going problems at the cost of profits. LD 1349 provides the legislature the means to address these issues and more.

its time to turn away from corporate lobbying and coercion and take an active part in the operations of this major state-owned resource. Please vote LD 1349 aught to pass. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Jane Herbert

Damariscotta, Maine