

To: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Ella Allan-Rahill

Monday, April 28, 2025

Dear Representative Bridgeo and Honorable Members of the Committee,

As a concerned student and lifelong resident of Orono, I am writing to urge you to oppose L.D. 297, An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants. This bill will bring out-of-state waste into Maine, rolling back existing laws. It is well-known that the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Alton, which would receive much of this waste, has suffered from poor management in the past. This mismanagement has contributed to environmental and human health concerns, including a fire in May 2023 and continuous PFAS leakage, which polluted the air and water. This affects numerous downstream and downwind communities, including the Penobscot Nation, who have been actively fighting the expansion of this landfill. Casella, the operator of this landfill, is under investigation for mismanagement, and the harms we've seen in this area in just the past few years should be evidence enough that this facility is not equipped to process more waste while keeping local resident health in mind. This is not to mention the fact that this bill would make Maine taxpayers pay to subsidize waste from the rest of New England and counteract Maine's current efforts to promote more environmentally friendly waste management, such as recycling and waste diversion. Because of the likelihood of this legislation to create environmental, health, and economic problems for the people of Maine, I strongly encourage you to oppose L.D. 297.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ella Allan-Rahill