

Martin Chartrand
Bowdoinham
LD 297

Dear Senator Tepler and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

I am submitting this testimony in support of Lds 1604 and 1349, and in opposition to LD 297. My concern with all three of these bills regards how they impact the management of the Juniper Ridge landfill in Old Town. Before I recently relocated, I lived for 16 years in the Greater Bangor region, and the Penobscot River is a place I will always feel a connection to. One of the most inspiring developments in Maine over the last 50 years has been the cleanup of the Penobscot River so that salmon can return. Thus, I was highly disappointed to learn that landfill leachate is being dumped in the river, possibly containing forever chemicals, and impacting the health of the river and the people and ecosystems who live in and around it. Residents of Old Town and the Penobscot Nation have reported health impacts from the landfill. This landfill benefits a private operator, Casella, at the cost to residents.

You have the chance to act to take steps to protect the Penobscot region from further harm. Please pass Lds 1604 and 1349, to ensure public democratic oversight, and please vote "Ought not to pass" on LD 297. LD 297 would re-open a loophole that has allowed out-of-state waste to be dumped at Juniper Ridge at cost to Mainers.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Maine,

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