

Kat Taylor
Argyle Twp.
LD 1349

Monday, April 28, 2025

Kat Taylor Testimony supporting LD 1349 - An Act to Require Legislative Approval for a Contract to Operate the Juniper Ridge Landfill

Good Afternoon Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Kat Taylor. I am a resident and property owner in Argyle Twp, located about 20 miles north of Bangor and 2.5 miles as the crow flies west of Juniper Ridge Landfill.

I'm testifying today in support of LD 1349. During the public hearing on this bill it was mentioned that $\frac{3}{4}$ % legislative approval would be a high bar to achieve for a contract to be approved. However I'm sure this number could be amended to a simple majority to pass.

The main reason I am in support of this bill is because during the public hearing committee members and participants had no recollection or awareness of this 30 year contract locking the state into an agreement with little oversight or control of a state owned asset.

ENR committee members were not familiar with terminology or historical reference, and why should they? Some admitted to being in college when this agreement was made 20 years ago.

To pass a bill without having living memory of the circumstances that continue to plague Juniper Ridge Landfill and Casella's near monopoly of waste services in this state begs the necessity of bringing in the collective memory of our senators and representatives outside committee.

Whenever the state is committing its citizens to pay for a resource that should be a public service that benefits the public, we should put the question before the house and senate and perhaps in a referendum when the stakes are so high.

Had we done this 20 years ago we would not now be trying to untangle the predicament that is waste management in our state. We ask for citizen and legislative input and approval when we contract for a new transmission corridor, or a nuclear reactor, this should be no different.

Contracting for waste services for 30 years, exceptions, expansions and contract extensions should be a collective decision regardless of the details which can be ironed out.

Please vote Ought To Pass on LD 1349.

Respectfully,

Kat Taylor
Argyle Twp.