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LD 2070

Greetings, I am adding to the public comments concerning LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands.

I live downstream on the Penobscot River from the Juniper Ridge leachate dumping pipe in Old Town. We have all seen the resurgence that is possible when communities and legislators cooperate to cleaning up this magnificent and sacred river, through the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. More needs to be done.

I am writing to register, once again, that citizens like me do not want to see the expansion of Casella's landfill. The watershed we all live in provides us with aquifers for drinking water and for healthy wildlife. It is the home of many residents - and voters- who have been working to advance alternatives to the expansion. Alternatives exist, such as putting an end to out-of-state waste (no matter how it's characterized, it is excess trash that Casella profits from and needs to stop). Alternatives exist, such as support for a robust recycling and composting industry. We can reduce waste at its origin, rethinking packaging and reusing construction materials. Many of us are already doing this so I say: follow the people, and get on board with the necessary work to clean up our environment, the habitat that sustains us. End the paradigm of trash-as-profit, and pivot to health as a priority.

This watershed is the traditional land of the Penobscot Nation, and the insult of expansion into wetlands around Juniper Ridge is a travesty. Please support LD 2070 and finally end this long mess and open a new period of justice and environmental health for our future. Thank you.