

JANE HERBERT
DAMARISCOTTA
LD 2070

Testimony In Support

LD 2070 An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands

Jane Herbert February 6, 2026

Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair Senator Tepler, Chair Representative Doudera, Honorable Committee

Members:

My name is Jane Herbert I am a resident of Damariscotta, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 2070.

We are now painfully aware of the existence of PFAS in sewage sludge and the tragic implications for our food supply. Maine took action and adopted legislation disallowing the spreading of compost based on sewage sludge on agricultural land. In like fashion, I urge the adoption of this emergency measure to insure wild lands and wetlands in particular are shielded from the scourge of PFAS contamination.

I am very concerned about the leachate that is likely to escape capture and migrate into the environs surrounding landfills. The latest proposal for Juniper Ridge Landfill expansion is based on a 25 year flood. This seems woefully inadequate considering the growing number of 100 year floods reported across the globe in recent history. Maine needs policies based on real world conditions and forecasts.

The habitat at risk is of significant importance according to the Army Corps of Engineers. The developer's proposal includes a less than a million dollar payment to cover the loss of these habitats. That payment will not make up for the loss of these irreplaceable resources.

The watershed involved links to the nearby Penobscot River where salmon spawn. The Maine Department of Marine Resources has worked for over 20 years to restore the salmon population. It makes sense to protect this investment from inevitable damages of landfill expansion.

The rivers, streams and vernal pools within Maine borders cannot give testimony in support of LD 2070 but they will testify in time. Whether we have been faithful stewards or not will be recorded in future water tests and health outcomes.

Thank you for considering my reasons for supporting LD 2070.

Respectfully, Jane Herbert