

To: Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources  
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice  
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026



RE: Testimony in Support of L.D. 2070: An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands

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Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and respected members of the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources,

Good morning. My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I am the Advocacy & Organizing Director for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ). I am also a Bangor resident. MYCJ empowers youth under 30 to advocate for climate action and justice through legislative advocacy, community engagement, and educational programs. Our members include high school and college students, as well as young adults contributing to Maine's workforce.

On behalf of MYCJ, I am testifying today in support of L.D. 2070.

This bill prohibits the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from issuing permits that would allow the modification of freshwater wetlands to expand a solid waste landfill project. Altering freshwater wetlands harms wildlife, surface water, and groundwater, and should not be allowed to expand a landfill's operations.

MYCJ's members are particularly concerned about this issue in the context of the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) in Alton, Maine. The Penobscot River watershed is already threatened by pollutants and contaminants from JRL and other landfills north along the river. As a result, the sustenance, culture, and recreation of the surrounding communities (including the Penobscot Nation at Indian Island) are affected. There is no strong moral justification for expanding a landfill into freshwater wetlands at the expense of our communities' health and well-being.

This bill not only addresses a present concern but also a future one. Many landfills across Maine will reach capacity in the next several years. Last year<sup>1</sup>, the Environment & Natural Resources Committee advanced a bill that reopened a loophole, allowing out-of-state waste to be processed at JRL. Filtering more waste into the State won't lower our landfill capacity issues and will further harm our environment.

Please protect our wetlands, water, wildlife, and communities by supporting L.D. 2070's passage.

Thank you for your consideration of our organization's testimony,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jackson Chadwick'.

Jackson Chadwick  
Advocacy & Organizing Director  
Maine Youth for Climate Justice  
[jackson@mycj.org](mailto:jackson@mycj.org)

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<sup>1</sup> "New Law Allowing Out-of-State Bulky Waste in Maine Landfills Sparks Debate." News Center Maine, July 11, 2025.  
<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/tech/science/environment/new-law-allowing-out-of-state-waste-in-maine-landfills-sparks-debate-casell-a-waste-systems/97-0883a989-fca0-44ff-9622-2b648ec0fbf8>