

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Ezra Sassaman, Advocacy Coordinator, Maine Climate Action Now
Date: February 10, 2026
Re: LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I live in Bar Harbor and represent Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a coalition of eighteen nonprofit organizations united by a shared desire for transformative action in response to the climate crisis.

Over the past years, Casella has accepted consistently large amounts of construction waste from other New England states. It has also been a willing partner to the companies producing that waste, charging fees for every ton of debris in the landfill. In this way, its business model encourages unsustainable expansion.¹

The construction and demolition debris that make up around two-thirds of new material buried in the landfill often contain “forever chemicals” and other toxins – the same ones found at alarming levels in the nearby Penobscot River and the fish that live there.

For this and other reasons, a judge rejected Casella’s landfill expansion proposal earlier this year, ruling that the Department of Environmental Protection “must consider the environmental burden the landfill places on the Penobscot Nation and any impact between the tribe and its “intimate relationship with the Penobscot River.”²

These waste management practices have also already destroyed acres of wetlands and future expansions would harm further environmentally valuable areas. Wetlands are important because they improve water quality and enhance groundwater by trapping harmful chemicals. They also control flood risks, prevent erosion, stabilize stream banks with vegetation, and serve as a critical habitat for wildlife, including over one third of endangered species in the United States.

A safe and healthy environment for all people – not the purchase of the most possible waste – must be the priority of Maine. For this and the above reasons, we urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 2070. Thank you.

¹ Charlie Eichacker, “[Maine's landfill is meant for in-state waste. Here's how Massachusetts and NH are filling it up](#)”. *Maine Public*. March 18, 2022. Accessed February 10, 2026.

² Marie Weidmayer, “[Judge rejects Juniper Ridge Landfill's proposal to more than double in size](#)”. *Bangor Daily News*. January 9, 2026. Accessed February 10, 2026.