



*February 11, 2026*

*Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

*RE: LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands*

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

My name is Kaya Lolar, and I am the Director of Policy & Wabanaki Studies at the Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA). I'm writing to you in support of LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands.

MEEA represents over 2,000 Maine educators—classroom teachers and community-based educators—who provide hands-on environmental and outdoor learning experiences for youth. Although this bill may not be explicitly connected to classrooms, your choice regarding this bill will directly impact the wellbeing of our youth, through its influences on the outdoor spaces surrounding their homes and schools.

Maine is both a leader in outdoor education and renowned for its abounding array of recreational outdoor activities. Allowing even more of our cherished natural space to be polluted, especially wetlands which are crucial to maintaining healthy ecosystems, puts all of this at risk.

Furthermore, we stand with the Wabanaki Nations and do not condone actions that would cause further harm to their communities and homelands, like a veto for this bill would provide. Juniper Ridge Landfill has already caused extreme damage to the natural areas around the Panawahpskek (Penobscot) community on what is now called Indian Island, including the Penobscot River, one of Maine's largest bodies of water.

On behalf of the Maine Environmental Education Association, I urge you to support LD 2070. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kaya Lolar

Director of Policy & Wabanaki Studies

Maine Environmental Education Association