

Anne Farrington
Auburn
LD 2070

In support of LD 2070, An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands
Representative Doudera, Senator Ross, and other members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Anne Farrington. I live in Auburn where my family enjoys the ever-changing Mighty Androscoggin and its riverbanks, just beyond "our" back field. We often take the river's beauty and its creatures for granted. But the pair of eagles who hang out in a nearby pine tree and cruise the river's runway in search of supper remind us that this stretch of the river, once badly afflicted in days gone by with industrial pollution and municipal sewage, is still recovering from decades of abuse.

It's often easy to take good things for granted, isn't it. Joni Mitchell reminded us about that when she sang "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They paved paradise, put up a parking lot."

Our rivers in Maine are precious gifts offering us so much: drinking water, food, recreation, transportation, and more. They are full of history, happy memories, and spiritual connections. And our wetlands are critically important for the well-being of our rivers (and the creatures who live in or around them, whether they have fins, feathers or feet). Wetlands protect our rivers, and can even make them better.

We would be remiss if we failed to note the ongoing harm --- health-wise, culturally, and environmentally --- caused by the Juniper Ridge Landfill to the members of the Penobscot Nation. I believe that passage of LD 2070 could address those issues, and help us meet environmental justice standards.

Maine should be working to eliminate expansions of landfills where they harm our wetlands, rivers, and the Mainers (that's all of us) who benefit from them. We DO know "what we've got" and we must protect our wetlands before they're harmed by landfills. Please vote to support LD 2070.