

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 29

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Testimony of Senator Anne Carney opposing
**LD 297, “An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from
Wastewater Treatment Plants,”**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Monday, April 28, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Anne Carney, and I have the honor of serving in the Maine Senate representing District 29. I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 297.

In 2022, I proudly sponsored LD 1639, a bipartisan effort that finally closed the legal loophole allowing out-of-state waste to flood into Maine’s state-owned landfill. That loophole allowed Casella Waste Systems to essentially “launder” waste through Maine facilities before burying it at Juniper Ridge — directly undermining our state’s policy to preserve our taxpayer-owned landfill for the needs of Maine people. As a result, Juniper Ridge filled far faster than anticipated — with about one-third of its waste originating from out of state — necessitating landfill expansions and putting the greatest burden on communities living adjacent to the landfill, including the Penobscot Nation.

Since the passage of LD 1639, Casella Waste Systems has sought to delay and dismantle its implementation. LD 297 is yet another attempt to postpone compliance, prioritizing corporate profit over Maine’s public interest and the health and safety of those who live in the shadow of the landfill.

I am deeply disappointed that, instead of using the last three years to adjust their business practices to comply with Maine law, Casella Waste Systems seeks yet another extension. Worse, LD 297 would allow them to continue facilitating the importation of unlimited out-of-state waste under the guise of crushing it for daily landfill cover. This provision has nothing to do with sludge stabilization. It is simply about maximizing profit by turning our public landfill back into a dumping ground for other states’ waste, fully reopening the loophole that we closed with LD 1639.

Let’s be clear: Casella has other options for stabilizing sludge. Other landfill operators around the country use materials like contaminated soil, wood chips, and municipal solid waste, or they invest in technologies to dewater and manage sludge responsibly. Casella’s refusal to adapt is

their choice to prioritize easy profits over environmental stewardship. But Maine has set different and more environmentally responsible priorities in our solid waste hierarchy. Please hold them accountable for their own decisions about their own corporate practices.

If the Committee believes some extension is absolutely necessary to prevent a crisis, I urge you to limit it to one additional year. And I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to reject the provision allowing unlimited crushed waste of any kind for landfill cover. That provision is completely unrelated to sludge management and would dangerously undo the progress we fought so hard to achieve through LD 1639 in the 130th Legislature. The use of crushed waste for landfill cover is another example of a corporate practice that is out of step with Maine's solid waste hierarchy and the better practices used in other states.

Maine's landfill was purchased to serve the long-term needs of Maine people — not to be a corporate profit engine. I respectfully urge you to reject LD 297 and protect the hard-won progress we made together.

Thank you for your time and for your continued leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'A' and a trailing 'e'.

Anne Carney
State Senator, District 29