



ESTABLISHED 1975

April 28, 2025

Senator Denise Tepler  
Representative Victoria Doudera  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Letter regarding LD 1349

To the Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Simon Tripp, Vice President of the Eastern Region for Casella Waste Services, Inc. Casella is a regional integrated materials management company with over 50 years of waste and recycling experience. In addition to being contracted by the Bureau of General Services (BGS) to operate the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) for the State, we employ more than 500 people in Maine who serve dozens of municipalities from Kittery to Limestone and operate roughly 200 trucks and 35 facilities to meet our customers' daily needs. Our Maine operations recover nearly 50,000 tons of recyclable material each year and put it to a higher and better use, making us one of the leading recyclers in the Eastern United States.

The Juniper Ridge Landfill is a critical component of the state's solid waste management infrastructure. It receives solid waste streams generated in Maine including incinerator ash, ash and debris from burnt structures, grit from street sweeping, contaminated soils, construction and demolition debris, non-hazardous chemicals and other special wastes. Over the past five years, JRL has provided important reliability for Maine residents and businesses in that it has received significant amounts of bypass municipal solid waste because of intermittent shutdowns at ecomaine's incinerator in Portland, Municipal Waste Solutions' processing facility in Hamden, and the incinerator in Orrington. Since the ban on the land application of biosolids in 2022, Maine is largely dependent on JRL for the disposal of sludge from municipal wastewater districts.

Because of the additional wastewater sludge and additional bypass municipal solid waste, JRL will be full by 2028 at current disposal rates. As the DEP noted in its 2024 *Materials Management Plan*, expansion of JRL is necessary to ensure adequate waste disposal for the entire State. Failing that, the people of Maine would face catastrophic waste capacity challenges.

As the operator for BGS, we are responsible for preparing the application to expand JRL. Casella has already made investments to conduct engineering studies, prepare site plans, and meet environmental and other legal requirements to complete the application. Upon approval, Casella will be making additional investments to set the



ESTABLISHED 1975

lining for the landfill and create the system of piping and catchment basins to manage leachate. Last fall the DEP issued a public benefit determination, finding that the expansion will benefit Maine, a required step before we can submit the license application under the solid waste rules to expand. As part of that public benefit determination, we agreed to install a system to treat PFAS in landfill leachate from JRL.

The proposal we expect to submit to the DEP later this year adds approximately 60 acres at the current site amounting to nearly 12 million cubic yards of capacity. This will provide the people and communities of Maine with an additional 10-15 years of a consistent, dependable and safe option for their solid waste disposal needs.

Like any other business, we are not inclined to make these investments and then be denied the opportunity for the investments to be viable. BGS has contracted with Casella to operate JRL until 2034. We would like to extend the current operating services agreement so that its expiration coincides with the useful life of the expanded landfill. We are prepared to negotiate in good faith with BGS to achieve this objective.

Adding new requirements to BGS's ability to process the JRL expansion – including its negotiations to extend our contract to operate the facility – will prolong the time necessary to approve and build it. If we do not have an expansion approved and construction completed within the next three years, Maine municipalities and businesses will be faced with much higher prices for solid waste disposal.

Sincerely,

*Simon A. Tripp*

Simon Tripp  
Vice President, Eastern Region  
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.