



May 17, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee On Environment and Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to LD 1639 An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste.

Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter (PSR Maine) has over 3,000 health care professionals and advocates statewide. We work on a variety of issues, including toxic chemicals, that impact the health of Maine families and children.

As health professionals and advocates, we support LD 1639 and urge the Committee to vote ought to pass.

Construction debris makes up about a third of material dumped from out of state at the Juniper Ridge Landfill. This debris could contain a variety of toxic chemicals that pose a risk to human health.

Toxic chemicals that could leach into nearby land and waters threaten the health and wellbeing of the Penobscot Nation, neighboring residents, and the Penobscot River and Bay.

Children's health is most at risk because of a variety of factors including more rapid respiratory rate, a larger skin surface to body mass, and because toddlers have a proclivity to put interesting things in their mouths. Children also have many more years ahead during which their bodies may be steadily accumulating toxins which can make them vulnerable to a variety of cancers, respiratory diseases, behavioral problems and learning disabilities, as well as other late emerging adverse effects.

Eliminating exposure is the best way to protect health and prevent disease. We urge you to support LD 1639.

Thank you again.

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