

From: [Katie Huntington](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Public Benefit Determination Application for Juniper Ridge Landfill (DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N)
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 3:56:46 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

DEP Solid Waste Project Manager Karen Knuuti,

Dear Commissioner Loyzim,

I am a mother, and Community Health RN with a MS in Marine Biology who strongly opposes the Public Benefit Determination application for the expansion of Juniper Ridge Landfill. I work to maintain or improve the health of our community. Please consider the health of Maine citizens and the environment that supports that by rejecting the proposed expansion of J.R. Landfill. The application fails to meet the necessary criteria and poses significant risks to our environment and communities.

The expansion contradicts Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy. It does nothing to increase reduction, reuse, or recycling efforts. Instead, it perpetuates a system that prioritizes disposal over sustainable waste management.

The proposed expansion violates the environmental justice legal standards. The landfill has already disproportionately burdened the Penobscot Nation and nearby communities for years, contaminating sacred waters and exposing residents to harmful odors and potential health risks.

Casella's track record raises serious concerns about their ability to safely manage an expanded facility. Past issues with odor control, PFAS contamination, and the 2023 fire are just some examples of the risk of a further expansion.

The proposal does not address long-term waste reduction needs. It's a short-sighted solution that fails to invest in the infrastructure and programs needed for a sustainable waste management future.

I urge you to issue a negative Public Benefit Determination, pursue an independent environmental review of Casella's landfill practices and the cumulative environmental justice impacts, and focus instead on developing zero-waste solutions that protect our environment and communities.

Katie Huntington
riverrd5@gmail.com
651 River Road

Newcastle, Maine 04553