

**From:** [Linda Swackhamer](#)  
**To:** [Knuuti, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Juniper Ridge expansion  
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Hello, I am a resident of Veazie, Maine, directly downstream on the Penobscot River from where the leachate from the Juniper Ridge landfill is dumped at Old Town. I am writing to ask the state to deny Casella's request for a Public Benefit Determination to expand the landfill. Casella has not been a reliable partner or followed good practices over the last decade that I have lived here. The fact that the landfill is situated in traditional Penobscot Nation watershed is a continuing environmental injustice as the pollution expands. So many folks like me volunteered to work on the Penobscot River Restoration Trust to clean up this territory and look toward a more healthy future for us all in (what is now called) Maine. We compost, recycle, reuse materials to reflect a healthier future.

The fire at the landfill was never adequately explained (I remember phone calls that night: May 2023). Particulate matter and odors are regular insults to my neighbors there, and the fact of importing trash from out of state (and then engaging in wordplay to deny it) are all factors in my opinion that Casella should not be allowed to expand. And Casella should be made to follow laws that govern environmental standards, which they do not. Isn't government meant to protect the people? not the corporation?

We residents care about our homes here, and the natural habitat that sustains us all. The JRL expansion does not help us reduce the volume of waste, increase diversion and recycling, and violates the PBD requirement that planned expansion must promote the Solid Waste Hierarchy. The leachate in the river (never tested or transparently described) violates protections for humans and endangered salmon. Please vote to DENY.

Thank you  
Linda Swackhamer  
Veazie, Maine