

From: [Grace Cain](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Public Benefit Determination Application for Juniper Ridge Landfill (DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N)
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DEP Solid Waste Project Manager Karen Knuuti,

Dear Commissioner Loyzim,

I am opposed to any expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill.

It is unacceptable to expand a facility that nearby residents are opposed to. I would not choose to live next to a landfill and I imagine no one else would either so why force this on others who clearly oppose this expansion. If this is truly a benefit to the public then I think the rest of us residents in Maine would be happy to have a landfill in our community.

An expansion of this facility works against trying to meet Maine's GHG reduction targets.

An expansion of this facility works against Maine's waste reduction and diversion goals.

There are many opportunities in Maine to reduce the need for landfills that should be immediately developed and expanded, such as waste to energy plants, anerobic biodigesters, re-instating the ban on out of state waste, the extended producer responsibility for packaging law, expanding local composting and reducing food waste, instead of expanding a landfill.

Please let's turn our energy and focus on these other tools to reducing and managing our waste.

Believe me, I know how challenging and disheartening it can be to try to change our ways.

I have worked in two public school systems and witnessed the food waste that is surely contributing to the 47% increase in municipal solid waste. This is in no way a fault of any of our school food personnel or school districts. We are bound by government rules that benefit industrial agriculture but not our children or our local communities. We painfully see the waste but lack the support and tools to prevent and care for it appropriately.

I have volunteered on a community composting committee in the past and I know it is a lot of work that falls on a few very committed people with many barriers to success. One being that it costs municipalities more to handle recycling than waste!

Number one way to encourage recycling is to make it cost less for our towns to process recycling than waste.

The other takeaway from both of these experiences is that a lot more people care about this than have the time or energy to write you a letter or change a government policy.

I would propose polling or surveying the public on this important matter to get a true sense if the public determines an expansion of this or any landfill benefits the public.

Change is hard, but we have the tools to do it. If we just keep expanding landfills we will not change.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Grace Cain
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