

From: [Kerry Sack](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Public Benefit Determination Application for Juniper Ridge Landfill (DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N)
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:28:23 PM

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DEP Solid Waste Project Manager Karen Knuuti,

Dear Commissioner Loyzim,

More is definitely not better, and the public will not benefit if this application is approved. The public will definitely not benefit because the health risks to everyone living in proximity and downstream from the landfill are already affected in ways that cannot be assured. This is why enlarging the source of pollution from the landfill will add volume to the source of risk to public and environmental health and well being.

And this is why I vehemently oppose the Public Benefit Determination application for the expansion of Juniper Ridge Landfill. The application fails to meet the necessary criteria and poses significant risks to our environment and communities.

The expansion does not comply with Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy in that it perpetuates a system that prioritizes expanded disposal space over expediting more sustainable waste management practices.

The proposed expansion adds to the current existing violation of the environmental justice legal standards. The existing landfill footprint has already encroached upon the Pushaw Stream into the Penobscot River watershed. The extent and reach of environmental harm from landfill toxins are literally and figuratively yet unfathomable. We do, however, already know that the Penobscot Nation and nearby communities have for years been exposed to harmful odors and potential health risks.

It is beyond any company's ability to safely manage an expanded facility. Past issues with odor control, PFAS contamination, and the 2023 fire are examples of ways that adding landfill space will definitely add more of these similar harmful events if an expansion is permitted.

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, and please pursue an independent environmental review of Casella's landfill practices and the cumulative environmental justice impacts, and expedite developing zero-waste solutions that protect our

environment and communities.

Thank you for your thoughtful protection of public and environmental health, safety and wellness.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Sack

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