

From: [Susan Dickson-Smith](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion - testimony in opposition
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 10:33:40 AM

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.

Dear Ms. Knuuti,

I strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the Juniper Ridge landfill. I am a resident of Orono. First, the further expansion of a landfill that already pollutes the Penobscot River, which is sacred to my Penobscot friends, is a glaring environmental injustice. Citizens of the Penobscot Nation have worked for years for the reduction of pollution in their homeland. They cannot safely practice subsistence fishing, which has a serious impact not only on their physical livelihood, but also on cultural practices.

The citizens of the Penobscot Nation, and all of us who live in the area, live under threat of another fire at the Juniper Ridge landfill. There have been several, most notably a fire in May 2023 which sent toxic ash and smoke into neighboring communities, causing many nearby residents to report health problems and damage to the paint on their vehicles. Both my husband and I have asthma. If it can peel the paint on my car, I don't want it in my lungs!

Finally, the further expansion of the Juniper Ridge landfill conflicts with Maine's Solid Waste Management hierarchy. Far from advancing the state's goal of reducing, recycling, and diverting waste, the proposed expansion only aggravates systemic problems with waste disposal. Construction and demolition debris imported from out of state provides no benefit to Maine residents. Burying untreated sludge in a wetland, near a river is an environmental catastrophe, not a solution.

I call on the DEP to reject this proposed expansion, and continue to focus on real, long-term solutions to our waste problems here in Maine. Thank you.

Susan Dickson-Smith
8 Glenwood St.
Orono, ME 04473