

From: [Peter Drewniany](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the Proposed Expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town, Maine
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Peter Drewniany

327 4th Street

Old Town, Maine 04468

Solid Waste Project Manager, Karen Knuuti

Dear Ms. Knuuti,

As a resident of the City of Old Town, I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to the proposed expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town, Maine.

Since the legislature directed the State to acquire the Juniper Ridge Landfill more than 20 years ago, Old Town has been a dumping ground for other people's waste – including some from out of state. Today, Penobscot County is home to the only three state-owned landfills. Thirty percent of that landfilling now flows into Juniper Ridge due to the closure of other landfills in the greater Bangor area.

Maine State Law provides that people have the right to be protected from "environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment." In its application, Casella contends that the proposed expansion is "not inconsistent with ensuring environmental justice".

Environmental justice requires equity. Much of Old Town is sitting downstream from Juniper Ridge on Marsh Island in the Penobscot River. Where is the equity for the citizens of Old Town in the proposed 61-acre, 11.0-million-cubic-yard expansion of a landfill already leaching carcinogenic polyfluoralkyl compounds into the Penobscot River watershed? How are the citizens of Old Town meant to "enjoy" the Penobscot River when it is contaminated by PFAS-contaminated effluent? Where is the equity in closing a state-of-the-art trash plant in nearby Hampden, and then requiring the citizens of Old Town to expand their own landfill, despite already being exposed to noxious odors and smoke from an unexplained fire on a site containing PFAS-laden solid waste from incinerators and boilers from throughout Maine and beyond? Can a profit-oriented company like Cassella be relied upon to seal up an expanded Juniper Ridge Landfill, when it has already shown itself to be either

incapable or unwilling to do so up to now?

The answers to these questions are self-evident.

Consistent with Governor Mills' commitment to take steps to preserve our precious environment, I urge the State of Maine to reject the proposed expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill.

Sincerely,