

**From:** [Bethe Hagens](#)  
**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 HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THE CASELLA TRAVESTY POTENTIALLY ON ITS WAY AT THE JUNIPER RIDGE LANDFILL ANY NUMBER OF TIMES OVER THE PAST couple of YEARS. There is really nothing more to say other than this is a travesty for the State's national reputation, the quality and length of life for the Penobscot Nation and an expanding population of new Mainers, and a signal to future potential landfill users who will continue what will likely become a Maine Tradition if we are not firm with identifying and prohibiting what is proposed to commence. The proposed expansion violates the environmental justice legal standards. The landfill has already disproportionately burdened the Penobscot Nation and nearby communities for years, contaminating sacred waters and exposing residents to harmful odors and potential health risks.

Casella's track record raises serious concerns about their ability to safely manage an expanded facility. Past issues with odor control, PFAS contamination, and the 2023 fire are just some examples of the risk of a further expansion.

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, pursue an independent environmental review of Casella's landfill practices and the cumulative environmental justice impacts, and focus instead on developing zero-waste solutions that protect our environment and communities.

Bethe Hagens  
bethehagens@gmail.com  
330 Ocean Ave  
Kennebunkport, Maine 04046

