

From: [Galen Peracca](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Public Benefit Determination Application for Juniper Ridge Landfill (DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N)
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 4:08:05 PM

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.

DEP Solid Waste Project Manager Karen Knuuti,

Dear Commissioner Loyzim,

I strongly 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 local communities.

The expansion contradicts Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy. It does not meet standards established to increase reduction, reuse, or recycling efforts. Instead, it perpetuates a facility & operator that prioritize disposal over sustainable waste management.

Further, the proposed expansion violates environmental justice legal standards. The landfill has already disproportionately burdened the Penobscot Nation and nearby communities for years by contaminating sacred waters and exposing residents to harmful odors and potential health risks.

Casella's poor 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 only some of the examples we have of the risks Casella has taken and that would likely be increased with further facility 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.

Galen Peracca
gperacca@gmail.com
318 SALT POND RD
Blue Hill, Maine 04614

