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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,

Juniper Ridge Landfill is filling up – If the current trend is left unabated almost doubling the size as proposed will not bring a lasting solution. Is the plan to expand and expand again? Is Maine to become a regional dump? Have any other sites been seriously explored?

Maine has ownership of Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) and that makes the State officials responsible for, and complicit in, any mismanagement of the facility that transgresses the environmental justice mandate.

The big waste hauler overpowered Maine legislation to exclude out-of-state waste in Maine landfills with legal maneuvering. As it stands, trucks hauling waste from Massachusetts go to Lewiston and essentially drive through a legal loophole. Waste from anywhere can now be “re-characterized” as originating from Maine with minimal processing at an in state recycling facility.

Going forward waste from any state could end up in a Maine landfill in the same way.

Now the big waste company is pressuring the state again. This time its to greatly expand JRL despite well documented environmental concerns and testimony of diminished quality of life by residents living in the area fill the public record.

Will the waste industry prevail again or will state officials side with the will of the people of Maine and the Penobscot Nation? Will rules adopted in 2007 ensuring environmental justice for the community in which the expansion is proposed be followed? The decision will set another legal precedent.

The decision may well give opportunity for the waste industry to re-characterize Maine as a regional dump. I surely hope the request for expansion presented as a public benefit will be denied.

Respectfully, Jane Herbert

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