

**From:** [Linda Swackhamer](#)  
**To:** [Knuuti, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment /Juniper Ridge Landfill (DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N)  
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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 communities. 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 traditional homeland.

I live downstream from the mill in Old Town that dumps leachate from the landfill into the sacred Penobscot River. Many people have contributed to a clean up and habitat remediation of this important watershed. (Me too). Casella is not being honest and has proven that they cannot be trusted with Juniper Ridge as they redefine municipal waste with out-of-state trash, and aren't transparent about the fire in May 2023.

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.

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