



**Owner
Communities**

Bridgton
Cape Elizabeth
Casco
Cumberland
Falmouth
Freeport
Gorham
Gray
Harrison
Hollis
Limington
Lyman
North Yarmouth
Portland
Pownal
Scarborough
South Portland
Waterboro
Windham
Yarmouth

**Associate
Members**

Baldwin
Hiram
Naples
Parsonsfield
Porter
Saco
Standish

**Contract
Members**

Andover
Alfred
Appleton
Augusta
Brownfield
Brunswick
Chebeague Island
Chelsea
Cornish
Denmark
Eliot
Fayette
Frye Island
Fryeburg
Greenland, NH
Kennebunkport
Kittery
Lamoine
Liberty
Limerick
Livermore Falls
Monmouth
Mt. Vernon
Newington, NH
North Haven
Old Orchard Beach
Otisfield
Owl's Head
Readfield
Rockland
Sanford
Shapleigh
Somerville
South Thomaston
Swanville
Thomaston
Union
Vinalhaven
Washington
Wayne
Westbrook
Woolwich

September 24, 2024

Karen Knuuti, Project Manager, DEP, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
106 Hogan Road, STE 6
Bangor, ME 04401

Subject: Public Comment on Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion Approval

Dear Ms. Knuuti,

On behalf of ecomaine and our 74 member communities, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill. As a leader in sustainable waste management, ecomaine strongly believes that the Maine Solid Waste Management Hierarchy should be the guiding framework for any decision on waste infrastructure.

While we understand the necessity of landfill capacity, it is critical that this expansion does not undermine the priority of reducing waste, recycling, food waste recovery, and waste-to-energy (WTE) practices. The landfill should serve as the final resort, rather than a replacement for or deterrent to more sustainable waste management strategies.

The waste hierarchy, which prioritizes waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and waste processing (such as WTE), requires robust incentives to encourage both businesses and municipalities to divert waste from landfills. If the expansion is approved, we urge the DEP to adopt measures that uphold these higher-value waste management solutions. Policies should incentivize recycling programs, composting, and waste diversion from WTE plants, which can be enhanced through better processing and residue management at existing facilities like ecomaine.

In particular, it is vital to ensure that waste-to-energy facilities, which reduce the need for landfilling while generating energy, are not sidelined due to the availability of expanded landfill space. We recommend that the landfill be reserved for waste that cannot be diverted through existing waste reduction, recycling, or WTE processes.

In closing, we hope the expansion is structured in a way that maximizes waste diversion and strengthens Maine's leadership in sustainable waste management. We appreciate the DEP's consideration of these recommendations and look forward to supporting efforts that align with the State's ambitious waste reduction goals.

Sincerely,
Jamie Garvin
Director of Communications & Public Affairs

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