

September 27, 2024

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Via email: karen.knuuti@maine.gov

Re: Application DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N: Application for a Determination of a Public Benefit Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion.

Thank you for the extension of the public comment period regarding this proposed expansion. We certainly stand at serious consequential crossroads re waste management at this time because, yes, that "can has been kicked down the road" without truly creating meaningful involvement and enacting more successful solutions.

There are so many reasons to deny this expansion, particularly and perhaps solely for the vast and devastating environmental impact, but how can anyone consider further expansion when the simplest of all legal mandates required by JRL has not been met?

I am a resident of Cumberland County. My waste is picked up by Casella, a leading player in the use of JRL. Yet very little effort towards discourse and full understanding of the situation at Juniper Ridge has been undertaken beyond its immediate region. The entire population of this massive State are contributing to the need for this expansion and they are not fully informed or involved. How can anyone argue that meaningful involvement has been achieved when all parties, fully responsible for JRL's size and environmental success have been so fully absent, so much so that knowledge of JRL and its impact has been rendered invisible, utterly invisible to those who are directly responsible for its increasing size and contents?

A greater effort towards this understanding must be made Statewide. A fully funded public awareness campaign must be made to meet this criteria. All consideration of expansion must be stopped until this happens and there is considerable evidence of Statewide community awareness and engagement. Towns must put this information at on the homepage of their website with the urgency it deserves and sponsor community gatherings and discussion. To do less than this is to fully obscure the consequences of individual and community inaction and the devastating impacts it creates in perpetuity: PFAS, for one; the ongoing exploitation and atrocious harms to the Penobscot people and territories for another.

Continued lip services and empty promises renders this recourse of exploiting the Penobscot territories and people once again, as necessary. Please, let's stop this irresponsibility that truly is ethically criminal, and do the simplest thing before even entertaining expansion.

Thank you for your time,

M. Therese Duffy

Mary-Therese Duffy
Raymond, ME