

**From:** [Dick Atlee](#)  
**To:** [DEP Rule Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Clark, Paula M](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Chapter 400: Maine Solid Waste Management Rules  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:38:23 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.

To: Chair Draper and the Board of Environmental Protection  
Re: Proposed amendments to Chapter 400: Solid Waste Management Rules

I live in Southwest Harbor. I am far from the primary state landfills, especially Juniper Ridge. However, I've been an active member of the [Mount Desert Island] A Climate to Thrive organization's Zero-Waste Committee for a number of years, including playing a significant role in the ultimately successful 2018-19 effort to ban single-use carryout plastic bags and polystyrene foam food service containers in the four towns on Mount Desert.

That experience acquainted me with the issue of toxic pollution from plastics. In talking with staff at Coastal Resources Maine and other interested parties, I became aware of various landfill-related issues, including the legal subterfuge under which waste from states south of Maine is shipped into Maine for disposal as "Maine waste". This ties into the toxics issue, in terms of leaching, and from there gets into the critical issue of potential loss of potable groundwater, which is becoming an endangered resource — particularly for the citizens around and "down-water" from Juniper Ridge.

As I understand the proposed amendments, one of their primary objectives is to change existing definitions to eliminate any opportunity for claiming that non-Maine waste is Maine waste. This would seem to be a no-brainer for any rational person, which I assume describes the members of the BEP. Please consider following the rational course in this instance, and adopt the proposed amendments without alterations (as was regrettably happening with regards LD401 before the legislature adjourned for the pandemic).

Thank you.

Dick Atlee  
Southwest Harbor  
207-244-9590