

From: [Tammy C](#)
To: [Clark, Paula M](#); [Burke, Ruth A](#)
Subject: Chapter 400 Rule Petition Comments
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Dear Ms. Clark and Ms Burke,

Please find my comments relating to the Petition to Modify Maine's Solid Waste Management Rules.

I am writing to ask that Maine lawmakers stop allowing Maine to be a dumping ground for all of New England. Neighboring states, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, prohibit importing other states' demolition and construction waste, and so should Maine. This not only leads to huge mounds of unsightly waste at the Juniper Ridge Landfill that sits atop a watershed, but even more concerning, negatively impacts OUR land and OUR water – affecting Maine citizens' health, livelihoods, wildlife, and more.

Unfortunately, Big Waste lobbying actions have been successful up to this point, but this needs to STOP NOW. Big Waste got Maine DEP to tweak the definition of "Maine Waste," so rather than construction and demolition debris from the creation or demolition of buildings located in Maine, these altered rules **allow thousands of tons of toxic waste to be imported from any other state, whereupon, entering Maine, it is magically turned into "Maine waste."** How is this done you ask? It is done by plucking recyclable metals from the dumploads a few miles into Maine. Under DEP's current rules, this instantly transforms the remaining 97% of each truckload into "Maine Waste," acceptable for dumping atop our state-owned waste mound.

And it doesn't stop there. Once foreign trash is "processed," it is poured into the Penobscot River! This not only negatively impacts the wildlife itself, but also the livelihoods of those who depend on it, as well as those who use it for recreational purposes.

This is completely unacceptable, and this loophole must be closed.

This issue concerns all Maine citizens – regardless of where one lives – but is also an environmental justice issue for the Penobscot Nation and their neighbors who bear the brunt of these devastating and harmful impacts.

Please protect OUR land, OUR water, and OUR citizens by changing the rules that allow out of state waste to be dumped in Maine. This is NOT The Way Life Should Be.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tammy Cloutier
Kennebunk, ME