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To: [Clark, Paula M](#); [Burke, Ruth A](#)
Subject: Chapter 400 Rule Petition Comments
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To whom it may concern,

My name is Alyssa. I have lived my entire life in the state of Maine. Generations of both sides of my family come from Maine and because of the natural beauty and bounty of the state, we have chose to live here through the harsh winters, as this is our home.

As a child, I learned of the cultural importance of the Penobscot river to the tribes of Mainel. These rivers not only formed sustainability for native peoples, but when settlers came, they also understood how precious the resource was, and chose to build their ports on the banks of the river, the relics of which, Bucksport, Bangor, Old Town, Lincoln and more, bustled and thrived off what the river provided for us.

Through the last century, the river has been exploited as an entity that cannot speak for its self, so it is being drowned by voices that are smothering it with filth and grime generated by people who do not live in, work in, or pay taxes to the state of Maine. So it is our job as Maine people, to raise our voices for the river, so it can be heard that it is hurting.

The last 20 years have been spent cleaning up the waste that was dumped into the river for generations, and the paper mill sludge still remains under the rocks of our river beds and the memories of our senior community members, who can recount stories of the terrible days where the river smelled of death and the paper color run could always be seen being dumped into the river, dying the waters south of the leach ports for all to see.

This constant pollution into our river ways caused these massive clean up efforts to restore our river that belongs to us all. The river when I was a child, was always questionable, but after many years of the clean up efforts, the efforts paid off with wildlife and natural fauna coming back to the once almost desolate river bed. The river was to the point where I felt safe and comfortable to swim in the water as nature has a beautiful way of restoring its self.

That said, through corporate lobbying and loopholes, our river is once again being polluted. This is more than an outrage, this is an act of violence against future generations of Mainers who will need to "live with" the destruction that greedy people are causing our natural ecosystem. Their children will eat food nourished with the toxic waste from out of state pollution, even without ever leaving this beautiful state.

This needs to STOP.

This is NOT okay!

Maine people voted to keep trash from out of state, out of our landfills, and we deserve this to be met straight forward, as it is what the people of Maine know is right!

Worse than cutting down paradise to make a parking lot, we are cutting down paradise to fill the pockets of corporate greed and fill our paradise with toxic sludge for our children to eat and drink for generations and generations to come.

This needs to end NOW.