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Dear Chair Draper and the Board of Environmental Protection,

My name is Misha and I am writing to you in support of the proposed amendments to Chapter 400: Solid Waste Management Rules.

I work in philanthropy and mutual aid in New Hampshire with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Thomas W Haas foundation. I have worked closely over the years with the Post-Landfill Action Network, a national network of college and universities campuses working to create long term sustainable solutions to wasteful systems and oppose the investment in landfills and incinerators.

Over the last 6 years they have gathered staff and interns in Old Town Maine to learn from the folks who have been struggling to live in the proximity of the Juniper Ridge Landfill. Fighting for their right to clean air and water and sharing with us the beauty of the Penobscot River. I was fortunate enough to join them one year and learn about the Penobscot people, who have been living and gathering food there for over 12,000 years.

I write to you today to show my support for the community in their fight against the loophole that allows Maine to have become a dumping ground for the region and support their call for a new definition for Maine waste as waste generated within the state of Maine.

Across the world and in Maine, waste facilities disproportionately impact indigenous communities, black communities, communities of color and low-income communities. We need to add definitions to the DEP rules around environmental justice, in order to protect communities from environmental racism/pollution as well as all people's right to enjoy a healthy environment.

Thank you for your time,

Misha Haas
Thomas W Haas Foundation