



Maine Conservation Voters

Inform. Vote. Protect.

September 28, 2020

Dear Chairman Draper and members of the Board of the Environmental Protection,

My name is Abigail Bradford. I am Maine Conservation Voters' Outreach Manager and a resident of Stillwater. I live about 8 miles from the Juniper Ridge Landfill.

I am writing on behalf of Maine Conservation Voters in support of the proposed amendments to Chapter 400: Solid Waste Management Rules. These changes will help to protect my health, the health of my neighbors from the Penobscot Indian Nation, Old Town, Alton and other communities near the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL).

Clarifying the definition of in-state waste as *only* waste that is originally *discarded* in Maine, and not out-of-state waste that is *processed* here or that is used for landfill cover or stabilization, will help stop Maine from being the dumping ground for other states' banned hazardous waste.

Adding the proposed definitions for "Environmental Justice" and "Equal Protection" will help ensure that the local residents who are most impacted by the landfill will be involved in the public benefit determination - as they always should have been.

In my previous role as a Policy Analyst for the nonprofit think tank Frontier Group, I studied our waste system and published multiple reports on the subject. Through this research, I learned about the toxic and hazardous makeup of the liquid leachate that landfills produce and the evidence that even with the most advanced liners, this liquid will eventually leak out of landfills.

Because of this, I am worried by JRL being sited so close to tributaries that feed into the Penobscot River. That worry increased ten-fold when I learned that hazardous waste - that has been banned by other states to protect their residents' health because it contains neurotoxins and potent carcinogens such as arsenic and PFAS compounds - is being dumped at JRL. Listening to Ms. Lister's and Mr. Crockett's testimonies during last week's hearing, I became horrified to learn that leachate is not leaking from JRL, but is being actively discharged into the Penobscot River without being properly treated. I live next to and regularly swim in the Stillwater River downstream of this site. I do not want to stop enjoying the natural world around my home because I fear for my health.

It is not okay for the health of those of us who live near Juniper Ridge to be impacted in exchange for profit; this is short-sighted and the costs incurred from pollution from the site will

be large and shouldered by Maine taxpayers for generations to come. Those are not the kind of profits Maine should be seeking. Becoming the dumping ground for other states' banned hazardous waste is counter to protecting Maine's natural environment - the draw for our tourism and summer camp industries - what holds young Mainers like myself here and draws others back.

Maine Conservation Voters supports the proposed amendments to Chapter 400: Solid Waste Management Rules included in the citizen-initiated rule and we urge the BEP to adopt these measures.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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