

# OPPOSE ROLL BACKS TO OUR HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT

**LD 718** will roll back a bipartisan law passed last year to stop out-of-state waste from being dumped in Maine.

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**The Legislature closed the out-of-state waste loophole to protect our communities and environment.**

- The State of Maine bought Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town, ME with taxpayer money with the intent to reserve the limited capacity for the needs of Maine's people.
- Until last year, a legal loophole had allowed for waste to be classified as "in-state" once it entered a solid waste processing facility in Maine — no matter where it originated. This allowed construction and demolition debris to be trucked to Maine from Massachusetts, which had strengthened its waste regulations and banned disposal of this type of waste.
- By 2022, about one-third of the waste dumped in Juniper Ridge each year was construction and demolition debris from surrounding states and about 16 forty-ton tractor-trailer loads of out-of-state waste were dumped in Maine every day of the year.
- With the advocacy of Don't Waste ME, a coalition of impacted community members and tribal citizens adversely affected by the negative impacts of waste facilities, and the EPC, the Legislature and Governor passed LD 1639 to close the out-of-state loophole.

**LD 718 ignores the efforts and impacts to the Penobscot Nation and local residents who worked to get this common-sense environmental measure passed.**

- This bill would push back implementation of LD 1639 by two years, leaving the out-of-state-waste loophole open and allowing for an additional 400,000 tons of debris to be landfilled at Juniper Ridge.
- Rapidly filling landfills require expansions and lead to increased pollution, which disproportionately impacts the Penobscot Nation, residents living near the landfill, and the Penobscot River and Bay.

**Casella makes more than a billion dollars in profit every year. They don't deserve a handout from the State and need to come to the table with solutions instead of fighting progress.**

- Casella argues we need to repeal LD1639 in order to provide construction and demolition debris to stabilize the sludge imports at Juniper Ridge Landfill. However, they have never explained why out-of-state waste is the only material they can use to stabilize sludge.
- Other landfill operators around the country utilize numerous other materials for sludge stabilization including contaminated soil, municipal solid waste, sawdust, and wood chips, as well as utilizing technology to dewater and dry sludge before it is landfilled, which reduces the need for stabilizing agents. According to their 2020 Annual Report, the Juniper Ridge Landfill has enough other forms of waste that can be used as a stabilizing/bulking agent.
- By refusing to accept sludge without earnestly exploring other stabilization options and adequately preparing for the implementation of LD1639, Casella is holding Maine's WasteWater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) hostage.

**Oppose LD 718. Protect Maine communities and natural resources by maintaining our stronger waste laws.**

For more information, please contact  
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# Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 120,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

**We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so all Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.**

