

STOP FILLING MAINE LANDFILLS WITH OUT-OF-STATE WASTE

Close the legal loophole to reduce landfilling and protect Maine's communities, water, and land.

Maine has become a dumping ground for toxic out of state waste.

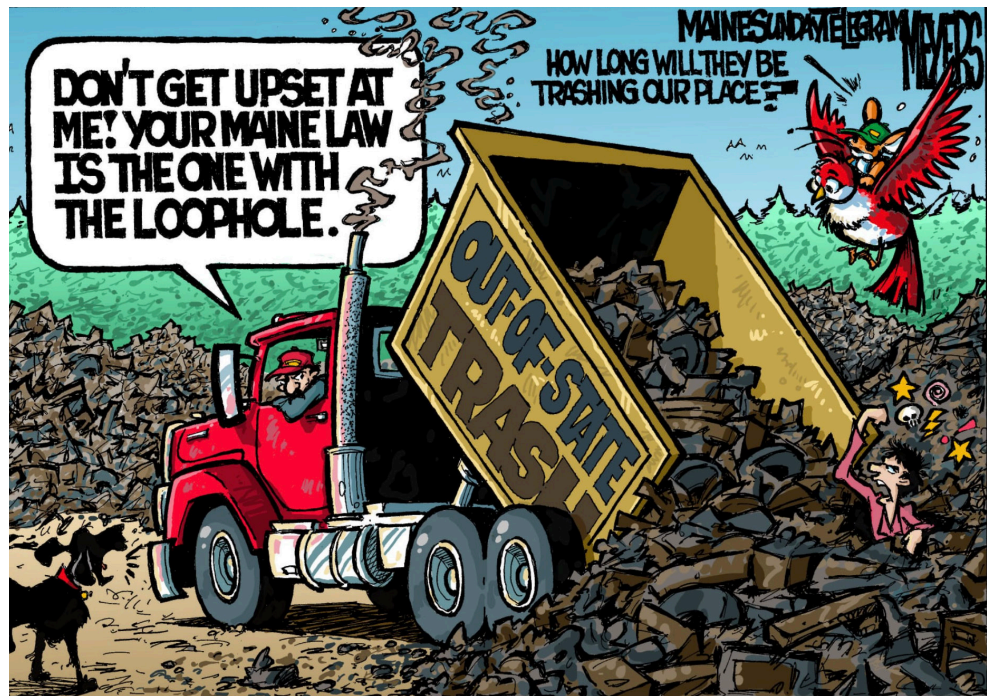
- A legal loophole in Maine's waste management laws has allowed for significant landfilling of out-of-state waste in Maine's state-owned landfills, which are intended to be reserved for waste generated in Maine. The loophole classifies waste as "in-state" once it enters a solid waste processing facility—no matter where it originated.
- Strengthening of waste regulations in Massachusetts and other nearby states has increased pressure for those states to send materials, including toxic construction and demolition debris, to Maine for disposal.
- Every year, hundreds of thousands of tons of waste are imported from surrounding states and disposed of in Maine, leading to landfill expansions and increased pollution.

This is an issue of environmental justice.

- Maine's weak waste policies have made the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) a dumping ground for toxic waste, threatening sites of historical, cultural, spiritual significance for the Penobscot Nation, the Penobscot River and Bay, as well as the drinking water for the area.
- People living near JRL have not only been disproportionately impacted by the waste facility, but also systematically excluded from the decision making process for landfill expansion permits and bills aimed at addressing their concerns.

It is time for Maine to strengthen our waste laws and better protect our communities.

- This bill is being driven by Don't Waste ME, a coalition of impacted community members and tribal members fighting for policies that protect the health of communities most at risk from the negative impacts of waste facilities.
- This bill would close the legal loophole once and for all by preventing out-of-state waste from becoming in-state waste just by virtue of touching one of our solid waste processing facilities.
- This bill would provide communities most impacted by landfills a greater say in the licensing and expansion of state-owned landfills by ensuring equal protection and environmental justice.



Cartoon © Steve Meyers

PROTECT MAINE COMMUNITIES WITH STRONGER WASTE REGULATIONS.

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Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine’s Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 32 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 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 Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

