

**From:** [Ron Huber](#)  
**To:** [Knuuti, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Public Benefit Determination Application for Juniper Ridge Landfill (DEP# S-020700-W5-CV-N)  
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DEP Solid Waste Project Manager Karen Knuuti,

Dear Commissioner Loyzim,

I am writing to oppose the Public Benefit Determination application for the expansion of Juniper Ridge Landfill.

Overall, the application doesn't meet the state and federal criteria. It already poses significant risks to our air land and water environments including the wild communities of Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay and communities.

The expansion contradicts Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy. It is the worst alternative. It does nothing to increase reduction, reuse, or recycling. Instead, perpetuating a system that prioritizes disposal and "permanent" storage over sustainable waste management.

The proposal violates environmental justice legal standards. The landfill has disproportionately burdened the Penobscot Nation and nearby communities for years, contaminating sacred waters and exposing residents to harmful water and aerial contaminants and potential health risks.

Casella's track record shows an inability to safely manage the present facility, let alone an expanded one. Past issues with odor control, PFAS contamination, poorly treated leachate discharges into the river and the 2023 fire are just some examples of the risk of a further expansion.

Long term waste reduction needs are not considered. It's a band aid solution that fails to invest in the infrastructure and programs needed for a sustainable waste management future.

Please issue a negative Public Benefit Determination, pursue an independent environmental review of Casella's landfill practices and its cumulative environmental justice impacts, and focus instead on implementing zero-waste solutions to protect our communities and environment.

Thank you  
Ron Huber, Penobscot BayWatch

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