

# STOP FILLING MAINE LANDFILLS WITH OUT-OF-STATE WASTE

## LD 1639 will close the loophole that allows Maine to be New England's dumping ground.

### Maine's state-owned landfill is filling quickly with waste from surrounding states.

- The State 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.
- 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 contamination at Juniper Ridge Landfill.
- The amount of waste going to Juniper Ridge Landfill is significant and increasing every year, filling 32% faster than anticipated when the state bought it.

### Maine's weak waste laws make it cheap and easy to dump toxic materials here.

- About one-third of the waste landfilled at Juniper Ridge Landfill each year is construction and demolition debris that originates from surrounding states. That amounts to about 16 forty-ton tractor-trailer loads of out-of-state waste being dumped in Juniper Ridge Landfill every day of the year.
- Most of the construction and demolition debris being trucked to Maine comes from Massachusetts, which has strengthened its waste regulations and banned disposal of this type of waste.
- 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.

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

- A legal loophole classifies waste as "in-state" once it enters a solid waste processing facility in Maine – no matter where it originated. This allows facilities to send out-of-state waste to Juniper Ridge Landfill.
- The companies who are exploiting the loophole for profit are working hard to block this law from passing, wrongly claiming that Maine benefits from being a dumping ground.
- Don't Waste ME, a coalition of impacted community members and tribal citizens adversely affected by the negative impacts of waste facilities, is leading the campaign for responsible policies to deal with our discarded materials.
- It's time for lawmakers to close the loophole before this problem gets any worse so we can protect our communities, our environment, and preserve the capacity of the Juniper Ridge Landfill for Maine.



Cartoon © Steve Meyers

**Support LD 1639. Protect Maine communities and natural resources with stronger waste regulations.**

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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.**

