

From: [Mia Bertelli](#)
To: [Knuuti, Karen](#)
Subject: Public comments on the proposed expansion of Juniper Ridge Landfill
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 10:43:56 AM

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Dear Karen or any whom it may concern,

My name is Mia Bertelli, and I am a resident of Waldo county. I am writing in support of the Penobscot Nation and their efforts to prevent the expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill. I believe their case is well researched and documented, and clearly shows the ways in which this expansion does not meet the requirements of the right to Environmental Justice. This alone is, in my eyes, enough to turn the decision around. But if more reason is needed, it seems clear to me that expanding the landfill would have no positive effects on midcoast Maine or any of its residents. The increased presence of PFAS in our environment is something that touches all of us, and in distinctly negative ways. I have had friends who have had to leave their farms and homes and livelihoods because of PFAS contamination, and it is no joke.

Obviously the problem starts higher up in the chain of events, because we continue to produce trash and chemicals and the need to dispose of it somewhere and somehow, but until we can make bigger shifts in our production of waste, it is our utmost responsibility to limit the ways in which its disposal will come back to touch us all, and most especially touch those who have historically born the brunt of the impact of our societal resource mismanagement. The Indigenous communities of Maine are due every effort we can make to preserve their access to a clean and healthy way of life, and the proposed expansion of this landfill--which is clearly lacking sufficient action to mitigate pollution or work with the local community to gain their input--would in no way achieve that.

Furthermore, what impacts the Penobscot Nation impacts us all. What we can appear to escape in nearness to environmental impact will still come back to us in medical bills, because the environment is not a closed container. This proposed expansion would benefit none of us.

Please reject the expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Mia Bertelli