

Maulian Dana
Penobscot Nation

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and honorable members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Maulian Dana and I serve as the Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1639 An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine's Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste. We support this bill for mainly two reasons: we are glad to see the environmental justice language and we are in favor of closing the loophole that allows for out of state waste to be dumped in Maine landfills. We are next to the Juniper Ridge Landfill and deal with not only the odor and clean air consequences of living between the Nine Dragons paper mill and the dump but we also are suffering from the leachate runoff into the Penobscot River. We are taking various steps to address this from a policy standpoint and this would be helpful as it would reduce the amount of waste which would in turn hopefully reduce the byproducts and leachate that pollute our ancestral territory and historically and continually threaten the health and well being of our tribal citizens.

Thank you very much to Senator Carney for introducing this important bill and I would encourage you to vote ought to pass.

Maulian Dana