

Mike Tipping
Orono

May 14, 2021

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

I am a resident of Orono and grew up in a home just a few miles down the banks of the Stillwater River from Juniper Ridge.

I and others in the neighborhood of the landfill are deeply concerned about the toxic debris from out-of-state that are being sent to this rapidly-expanding dump, especially given the delicate nearby ecosystem and aquifer.

As concerning as the waste itself is the series of loopholes that large corporations have been allowed to exploit to get us to this point, while local residents of Old Town, Orono and the Penobscot Nation have been denied a direct voice in what happens with this potential hazard that is growing near our homes.

From the original offloading of the dump to the state, which UMaine economics professors Melvin Burke and Pamela Bell called a case of “corporate blackmail,” to the ridiculous idea that dumping out-of-state waste in a landfill is somehow “recycling,” the playing field on this issue has always been tilted toward wealthy and powerful corporations and away from local residents.

I’m very glad that you now have this opportunity to set things right. I’d like to thank President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau for co-sponsoring this legislation and I’d urge you to stand up for our environment, health and rights in approving LD 1639.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Mike Tipping