

Stephanie Martinez-Alfonzo
Unity

My name is Estephanie Martinez-Alfonzo and I am writing in support of LD1639: An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste. A bill, if passed, that would limit out of state waste in the state of Maine landfills, impacting the volume of leachate into the Penobscot River. This bill would shrink a loophole that has allowed waste companies to import an exponentially increasing amount of out of state waste, re-classify it at processing facilities as "Maine-generated waste", and dispose of it in state owned landfill which is currently the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town.

We are already witnessing devastating effects of waste on water quality in the Penobscot River. The 1.3 Million gallons of landfill leachate being dumped into the Penobscot each month by ND Paper (from Juniper Ridge landfill) is concentrated with toxins and much of the waste materials coming in from out of state, in fact, are currently banned from deposition in other northeast states and provinces where they originate.

If we are not proactive, at the very least shrinking this loophole waste companies have used for too long, then we too contribute to the devastating effects on water quality and hazards to the health and welfare of both the area's citizens and ecology.

In our current state, more than ever we need to stand to protect our Rivers and work to support their restoration- for the Wild Atlantic Salmon who are going extinct and for our futures as well.

Please approve this bill and stand with us in protecting our rivers, watersheds, landscapes, fish, and the futures of all beings.

Thank you for your considerations, your work, and all those who sponsored this bill.

Sincerely,

Estephanie Martinez-Alfonzo