

Anthony Jackson
Brewer

Hello Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Anthony Jackson, he/him pronouns, and I am here as a resident of Brewer and the Co-Program Director of the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Today I am testifying in support of LD 1639 because I believe in protecting the future of our water and people.

By exploiting a loophole in Maine law the Juniper Ridge Landfill has become a dumping ground for out of state waste. This abuses the original intent of having the landfill being state owned to prevent just that. There has been an increase of out of state waste and there is no sign of this trend from slowing.

Maine people and land should not have to endure increased environmental toxins for the sake of profit. The result of increased dumping is it pollutes our waters and soil. Those environmental toxins disproportionately affect low income people and people of color. Specifically, the Penobscot people depend on the land, food, and water resources that are so close to the Nine Dragons Paper Mill who are responsible for the dumping of leachate from Juniper Ridge Landfill. It is wrong and irresponsible to allow other states to exacerbate the environmental problems Maine is already trying to address in the name of profits. People deserve to have safe and toxin free soil and land. This bill is a step in ensuring that for all Mainers.

It is for these reasons that I support LD1639 and I urge you to pass this bill to secure the sustainability of Main's water, land, people and beauty.