



To: Maine Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Amy Eshoo, Program Manager, 350 Maine

Date: May 14, 2021

Re: LD 1639 - An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Amy Eshoo. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and am the Program Manager for [350 Maine](http://350maine.org), a statewide grassroots climate justice organization with over 3,000 members. I am writing today to testify in favor of LD 1639.

Maine has become a dumping ground for toxic out of state waste due to a legal loophole in our waste management laws. This loophole has made the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) a dumping ground for toxic waste, threatening sites of historical, cultural, spiritual significance for the Penobscot Nation, the Penobscot River and Bay, as well as the drinking water for the area. 30% of waste going to Juniper Ridge Landfill is from out of state. LD 1639 would close this loophole.

As an organization dedicated to fighting for climate justice we argue strongly that this is an environmental justice issue. People living near JRL have not only been disproportionately impacted by the waste facility, but also systematically excluded from the decision making process for landfill expansion permits and bills aimed at addressing their concerns.

Maine should not be sacrificing the health and quality of life of its residents for out of state convenience or profit. We need to protect all our communities and give them a say in their futures. This bill would provide communities most impacted by landfills a greater say in the licensing and expansion of state-owned landfills by ensuring equal protection and environmental justice.

Protect our environment so all Maine people and communities can thrive equally.

PO Box 4736 Portland, Maine 04112
350maine.org

Amy Eshoo
350 Maine

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Thank you.