

Kerry Sack
Old Town

TESTIMONY:

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and Members of the ENR Committee,

I live in Old Town, home of the Juniper Ridge Landfill and I'm asking for your support LD1639 - An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste.

If our Dirigo state is where "We Lead", are we leading when we allow loopholes to lead Maine into a future that may include repeating costly mistakes made in our industrial history?

Why compare this loophole to anything in Maine's industrial past?

The loophole resulting in massive amounts of out of state toxic waste entering Maine allows lax accountability and abundant uncertainty regarding the amount of waste and its impact to Maine's land and waters.

The toxins produced, in (uncertain, unaccountable) total amounts then become Maine's problem.

What is Maine's capacity to safely address what becomes of the leachate from other state's waste?

If this question cannot be definitively answered, wouldn't all parties agree that it is wise and prudent to remember the lessons from Maine's industrial history?

When tanneries, lumber and paper mill industries grew and thrived, these businesses believed that industrial waste would just "wash away" and that our pure Maine waters and forest soil would just take care of all of it.

Our history includes Superfund sites, lawsuits, expensive land and river cleanup projects.

We are still learning about forever toxins such as PFAS in landfill leachate.

We know better right now what happens when we ignore expensive lessons learned from our industrial history.

If leaving a loophole is not the best way to lead Maine, if learning the lessons from our industrial pollution history is also considered, please lead Maine into greater accountability for the sake of our future by passing LD 1639.

ME and our future generations thank you for protecting Maine's long-term health, safety, environment and economy.

Kerry Sack
Old Town, ME