



Stop Filling Maine's Landfills with Out-of-State Waste

Support: LD 1639

An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste

Sponsored by: Sen. Anne Carney of Cumberland

Co-sponsored by: Sen. Bennett of Oxford, Sen. Brenner of Cumberland, Rep. Collings of Portland, Rep. Doudera of Camden, Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford, Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth, President Jackson of Aroostook, Rep. Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor

For more information, please contact Sarah Nichols, (207) 430-0170 or snichols@nrcm.org

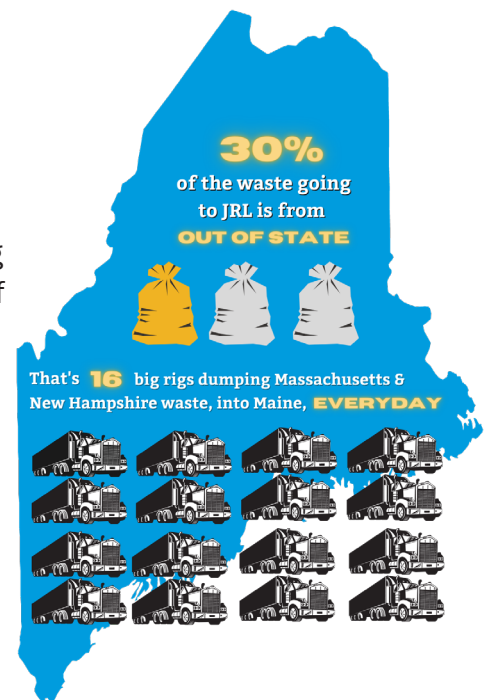


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The growing practice of dumping toxic out-of-state waste in the State-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) in Old Town is harming the health of Maine people and our environment.

A legal loophole has allowed private companies to fill JRL with massive amounts of toxic waste, which is threatening sites of historical, cultural, and spiritual significance for the Penobscot Nation, neighboring residents, and the Penobscot River and Bay. **LD 1639 would close that loophole.**

- At least 30% of the waste land-filled at JRL each year is toxic construction and demolition debris (CDD) that originated out-of-state. This is the equivalent of sixteen forty-ton big rigs dumping waste into JRL every single day of the year.
- The amount of waste going to JRL has increased by 32% since 2012. The 2017 disposal amounts were 40% higher than the maximum amounts anticipated in 2004 and shows no sign of slowing down without legislative action.



- The majority of the CDD waste comes to Maine from Massachusetts, where they have banned disposal of CDD waste in their landfills. Until we strengthen our laws, too, Maine will continue to legally but unjustly be a dumping ground for other states.

Learn more about LD 1639 and its status on the back.

According to Federal law, Maine cannot legally restrict commercial waste facilities from importing out-of-state waste, but we *can* prevent out-of-state waste from being dumped in our State-owned waste facilities.

Current Maine law classifies waste as “generated within the state” just by virtue of going to one of Maine’s solid waste processing facilities before it is landfilled.

LD 1639 Would Stop Maine from Being a Dumping Ground for Toxic Waste

The bill would:

- Limit the tonnage that a Maine waste processing facility can send to JRL to be no more than what they take from original Maine sources; **out-of-state waste tons would no longer be able to be disguised as Maine-generated tons.**
- Clarify that **landfilling is not recycling**, and no placement of waste in a landfill counts toward the 50% recycling standard that a solid waste processing facility must meet.
- Require Maine’s solid waste processing facilities to innovate and do the right thing for our environment by recycling more of the material they receive, or **by processing more waste originally generated by Maine people than they import from out of state.**

Latest Update:

LD 1639, received a public hearing on May 17, 2021, and was carried over to the next regular session of the Legislature beginning in January, 2022. Forty-two Maine residents and environmental and social justice organizations testified and hundreds more petitioned in support of this bill. Those who opposed the bill were all companies or individuals benefiting financially from dumping out-of-state waste in Maine.

