

**From:** Mary Dolan  
**To:** Tarbuck, Kathy  
**Subject:** I urge the BEP to reject the JRL expansion  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 12:40:31 PM

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Dear Board of Environmental Protection Members:

I attended the Public Hearing on the Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) Expansion yesterday evening. I am against the massive proposed expansion. I did not speak but I would like to share my observations with you for your consideration. Please forgive my neglecting to cite which speakers made which statements, but most of my comments come from hastily scribbled notes I made during the hearing.

Clearly, there is a lot of money in the waste business. A number of NEWSME Landfill Operations, LLC (Casella) employees testified in favor of the expansion as would be expected. A number of Casella business partners, including waste haulers and others in the solid waste business, testified in favor of the expansion as would be expected. JRL is important to their business plans and one testified that the reality of the expansion had been integral to their decision to partner with Casella. But issues of Maine's economic development should not prevail against the threat this expansion poses to our environment.

Another partner said "We in the waste business, we make it [solid waste] disappear." If only that were so! It does not disappear. It is hauled by the hundreds of truckloads to our backyard! One Casella partner stated JRL is in a "secluded area." Our area is not secluded. In fact, a number of Casella partners contradicted this and cited JRL's being nearby as one of its assets.

I do not doubt that the waste technology used at JRL is state-of-the-art as several pro-expansion speakers testified. That is not the issue. The best technology can be circumvented and misused as happens in Casella's operations at JRL. For example, the importing of out-of-state waste and maximal use of so-called "fines for daily cover" to avoid tipping fees and inflate recycling claims have nothing to do with technology.

I heard Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy turned on its head by pro-expansion speakers, who referred to landfilling as the "foundation" of the hierarchy. That is wrong! Landfilling is the "Last Resort" of the hierarchy when our other efforts have failed.

Several pro-expansion speakers mentioned attending a JRL open house. I attended a JRL open house on a beautiful, clear day. From the top of one of the trash hills I could see Mount Katahdin. It was beautiful. But I also felt sick as I realized that someone looking from Mount

Katahdin would see this huge black blemish, as they looked in the direction of Old Town/Alton. The scar is bad enough as it is; it should not be made twice as bad.

A pro-expansion speaker described how difficult it is to find suitable land for landfilling. In other words, this is a valuable resource that belongs to the people of Maine! The BEP should reject the expansion. We must hold Casella accountable and not allow it to squander our resource for its short-term profits.

Sincerely,

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