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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

IN RE PROPOSED SOLID WASTE LICENSE  
AMENDMENT FOR JUNIPER RIDGE LANDFILL

Public Meeting At The Cross Insurance Center

MODERATOR: SUSANNE MILLER, DEP

Reported by Robin J. Dostie, a Notary Public and  
court reporter in and for the State of Maine, on  
February 28, 2018, at the Cross Insurance Center, 515  
Maine Street, Bangor, Maine, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

DEP STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- DAVID BURNS
- VICTORIA ELEFThERIOU
- KATHY TARBUCK
- RUTH ANN BURKE
- STEVE FARRAR
- TIM MACMILLAN



1 the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Department license  
2 number S-020700-WD-BC-A, Condition 10, as revised in  
3 Board of Environmental Protection Order number  
4 S-020700-WD-BG-Z. Sorry about all this. Condition  
5 10 pertains to the existing landfill only and limits  
6 the acceptance of non-bypass MSW at the Juniper Ridge  
7 Landfill up to the March 31, 2018 date.

8           So the agenda that we have planned for  
9 tonight is that following our opening remarks the  
10 applicant is going to present a 10 to 15 minute  
11 overview of the application and then we're going to  
12 have an opportunity to hear comments from you as the  
13 public, so we're going to call each person up one at  
14 a time who has comments. We're going to set a time  
15 limit for each speaker based on the number of  
16 speakers. We have quite a few listed here, so I  
17 think we're going to try to limit it to about three  
18 minutes per person; otherwise, we'll be here pretty  
19 late. Closing remarks will follow after we get the  
20 last speaker, so hopefully we'll be able to get  
21 everyone in, you know, within the time frame and  
22 everyone will have a chance to say what they would  
23 like to say.

24           So before we get started, I just want to go  
25 through some ground rules. We request that those who

1 wish to speak please sign up. So we had some -- we  
2 still have some sign-up sheets in the back there.  
3 The green ones are in opposition to, the pink ones  
4 are in support of. And do we have a color for the  
5 neither? I think there are white ones for the  
6 neither in support or opposed to. Your comments  
7 should be focused on the issues relating to the MSW  
8 amendment application. We would specifically welcome  
9 comments on Maine Solid Waste Management Hierarchy in  
10 relation to this application request and available  
11 waste diversion options in Maine including cost  
12 considerations. To assist you in commenting on this  
13 aspect of the application, we have provided a handout  
14 that includes language relevant to this proceeding.  
15 The handout should also be back there and it will say  
16 public meeting handout at the top and so I just want  
17 to make sure for those of you who haven't seen it  
18 that's what it looks like.

19           So we will only be receiving comments during  
20 this meeting. The meeting is not an opportunity for  
21 ongoing back and forth dialogue or cross-examination  
22 of others. Please be respectful and courteous when  
23 you provide your comments. The meeting audio is  
24 being recorded and transcribed. We request that you  
25 speak clearly into the microphone when you come up to

1 the podium. Please begin by stating your name, where  
2 you live and if you're representing the interests of  
3 anyone other than yourself the name of the interest  
4 you are representing.

5           And with that, I just want to introduce the  
6 other Department staff we have here in attendance.  
7 We have David Burns, our Director of the Bureau of  
8 Remediation and Waste Management. We've got Victoria  
9 Eleftheriou, the Director of the Division of  
10 Technical Services in the Bureau of Remediation and  
11 Waste Management to my right. And then Kathy Tarbuck  
12 is the Project Manager and Senior Environmental  
13 Engineer in the Division of Technical Services. We  
14 also have some other DEP staff including Ruth Ann  
15 Burke to my left. And we've also got Steve Farrar  
16 and Tim MacMillan in the back to help with anything  
17 you need with paperwork. Thanks.

18           And with that, I'd like to turn it over to  
19 the applicant to start their presentation.

20           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is  
21 Mike Barden. I manage the state-owned Landfill  
22 Program for the State of Maine. I work in the agency  
23 called the Department of Economic and Community  
24 Development. That's where my position resides even  
25 though the landfill is actually owned by another

1 state agency called the Bureau of General Services,  
2 so I'm here on behalf of the Bureau of General  
3 Services as the owner of the Juniper Ridge Landfill  
4 in Old Town.

5 I think DEP has got a handout to give you a  
6 little bit of a sense for what this application is  
7 all about. We're essentially seeking an amendment to  
8 a license that was issued in December of 2013 by DEP  
9 that allowed us to take 81,000 approximately tons of  
10 unprocessed MSW to the Juniper Ridge Landfill and  
11 that was primarily a result of the closure of the  
12 Maine Energy incinerator in Biddeford that happened  
13 in 2012. That facility that was about a 300,000 ton  
14 per year incinerator and about 125,000 tons of that  
15 was in-state MSW primarily from Southern Maine towns.  
16 The remaining capacity was out-of-state waste. So  
17 that 125,000 tons essentially had to find another  
18 home in 2012, so we applied to the DEP to accept that  
19 tonnage to Juniper Ridge. They gave us a license in  
20 2013 for 81,000 tons so this -- essentially this  
21 application is requesting an extension -- an  
22 elimination actually of the date. That 2013 approval  
23 from DEP had a time limit on when JRL -- how long it  
24 could accept that 81,000 tons and that time limit  
25 expires March 31 of this year, so we're requesting an

1 elimination of that time line to basically allow us  
2 to take the 81,800 tons into the existing landfill.  
3 This is not the expansion that was approved a few  
4 months ago that has yet to be constructed, so this is  
5 the existing landfill that probably has about four  
6 years left of capacity.

7           The incineration capacity in the state with  
8 the closing of the Biddeford incinerator and now  
9 there is going to be some recent changes that are in  
10 the works for the PERC incinerator in Orrington  
11 that's basically going to reduce their incineration  
12 capacity from about 300,000 tons to 200,000 tons. So  
13 in the course of 2012 to March 31 of this year when  
14 PERC is going to be doing some operational changes  
15 the incineration capacity of the State of Maine is  
16 decreased by about 45 percent. And we have one  
17 processing facility that is been licensed in Hampden.  
18 It's yet to be constructed. That's going to process  
19 about 145,000 tons at maximum. So we've got some  
20 tonnage in this state that has not been replaced by  
21 incinerators or processing facilities and that has to  
22 go somewhere and we're requesting that it go to JRL.  
23 So other than the removal of that March 31 date,  
24 there is no other changes that we're requesting to  
25 the existing amendment license that was granted back

1 in December of 2012.

2 And with that, I'm going to turn it over to  
3 Toni King at Casella and she'll talk a little bit  
4 about the hierarchy and the waste diversion efforts  
5 that the -- that Casella has undertaken since 2012  
6 when we received approval to take this.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Toni King.) Good  
8 evening. I apologize, I'm battling a cold that's  
9 stealing my voice, but I'll give this a shot.

10 My name is Toni King and I'm a Regional  
11 Engineer for Casella. As Mike indicated, there are  
12 no technical issues with accepting MSW at the Juniper  
13 Ridge Landfill, as the last 14 years of MSW bypass,  
14 and more recently non-bypass MSW, have shown.  
15 Moreover, we have found that acceptance of MSW at the  
16 Juniper Ridge Landfill is beneficial to, and  
17 preferred in, site operations. It is a valuable  
18 bulking and grading material, and reduces generation  
19 of landfill gas when compared to other wastes like  
20 construction and demolition debris and CDD fines that  
21 would need to be used were MSW not available.

22 I do want to briefly discuss how the  
23 continued acceptance of up to 81,800 tons per year of  
24 MSW is consistent with the Maine Solid Waste  
25 Management Hierarchy. The volume of MSW accepted at

1 Juniper Ridge has been reduced, recycled, composted,  
2 processed or incinerated to the maximum extent  
3 practicable, as demonstrated by our application, and  
4 illustrated in our annual submittals to Maine DEP  
5 pursuant to conditions of our existing permit. We  
6 will continue to demonstrate that each year while MSW  
7 is disposed at Juniper Ridge.

8           Conditions of our existing permit require  
9 that we show how much MSW has been diverted to other  
10 facilities since 2014, and how much non-bypass MSW  
11 has been disposed at Juniper Ridge. Each year, four  
12 to five times as much MSW handled by Casella in Maine  
13 is recycled or diverted to other facilities. That  
14 means, at the full 81,800 tons acceptance of  
15 non-bypass MSW, between about 330,000 and 400,000  
16 tons of materials are recycled in our zero-sort  
17 program, removed at our transfer stations, delivered  
18 to Maine incinerators, or delivered to Maine  
19 municipal landfills.

20           We've made investments here in Maine in  
21 recycling facilities and created job opportunities in  
22 recycling and materials management. Through our  
23 zero-sort program, MSW recycling is available to  
24 every municipality, business, and citizen. Since the  
25 construction of our Lewiston MRF, that facility

1 through-put, as well as the participation of Maine  
2 residents, has increased steadily year-over-year. In  
3 fact, based on 2016 data, Casella handles nearly 40  
4 percent of all MSW recycled in Maine. To further  
5 increase our customers' recycling efforts, we've  
6 recently partnered with Exeter Agri-Energy to provide  
7 bundled sustainable services, including food waste  
8 recycling.

9           Additionally, Casella has recently entered  
10 into agreements with both Fiberight and PERC to  
11 deliver significantly more tons of Maine MSW annually  
12 than was required under the 2013 license. These  
13 agreements, however, are contingent on receipt, on or  
14 before March 31, 2018, of DEP approval to continue to  
15 dispose of 81,800 tons of MSW annually until the  
16 capacity within the existing landfill footprint is  
17 exhausted. These agreements with Fiberight and PERC  
18 are consistent with, and promote the hierarchy, and  
19 will greatly enhance the financial viability of these  
20 facilities.

21           Finally, without continued disposal of up to  
22 81,800 tons of Maine MSW at the Juniper Ridge  
23 Landfill after March 31, this tonnage may be  
24 stranded, that is, without a practicable in-state  
25 recycling, processing or disposal alternative. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. MILLER: Okay. So I'm going to call --  
3 I have some of the names up here already. I'm going  
4 to call a few from each sheet. When I call your  
5 name, come on up and let us hear your comments. I'm  
6 going to -- like I said, we're going to try to keep  
7 this to three minutes, so I'm trying to think of a  
8 non-rude way to sort of let you know that we've  
9 gotten to that time, so maybe I'll just kind of tap  
10 on my wrist or something. Ruth Ann will nudge me and  
11 let me know and I'll just kind of go like that  
12 because we don't really want to cut you off.

13 And then just a reminder too, if you -- I  
14 may mispronounce your name and I apologize in  
15 advance, so if you could just state your name and  
16 then, again, if you're affiliated with yourself or  
17 with somebody else, just let us know, that would be  
18 very helpful.

19 So I'll get started and the first person I  
20 have listed is Linda Bryant.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Linda Bryant.) Pass.

22 MS. MILLER: Okay. Clarence Bryant.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Clarence Bryant.) I also  
24 pass.

25 MS. MILLER: Okay. Wayne Boyd.

1           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is  
2 Wayne Boyd. I live in Holden. I am the General  
3 Manager for NEWSME Casella, which is responsible for  
4 the operations at Juniper Ridge Landfill, and I'm  
5 pleased to be here this evening in support of this  
6 applicant and this application. I might add that we  
7 have a large group of cross -- a good cross-section  
8 of supporters here this evening, but they're a little  
9 shy to stand up to the mic, but I appreciate this  
10 time this evening and appreciate our supporters.  
11 Thank you.

12           MS. MILLER: The next name I have is Craig  
13 Stuart-Paul.

14           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Craig  
15 Stuart-Paul, CEO of Fiberight. I'm here on behalf of  
16 Fiberight Coastal Resources of Maine who are  
17 constructing the waste processing plant in Hampden.  
18 I'm here in support of the petition for three  
19 reasons; number one, we believe it advances the goals  
20 of waste hierarchy in the State of Maine; number two,  
21 we believe approval meets a critical need; and number  
22 three, we think approval is just common sense.

23           So in regards to the waste hierarchy  
24 speaking on behalf of the contract we've entered into  
25 with Casella this brings us approximately 40,000 tons

1 of waste MSW per year. In addition to the 100,000  
2 tons, we've signed up with local communities in the  
3 last year-and-a-half, this now takes our plant to  
4 full capacity. More importantly though, we had to  
5 design our plant to operate during the summer peak,  
6 which is very difficult in Maine. It's about a 25  
7 percent seasonal adjustment and we can call on  
8 additional waste from Casella in the winter months so  
9 that we can keep our plant running at peak efficient  
10 operation. That was a very important part of the  
11 contract that we signed with them.

12 We note that to ourselves, and I'm sure Kurt  
13 will speak, the waste is prioritized into one of our  
14 plants before going to landfills, so it is absolutely  
15 consistent with the waste hierarchy. And we also  
16 note that ourselves and the MRC have entered into a  
17 contract with PERC to send waste to them during the  
18 period that our plant is in construction. We believe  
19 it meets a critical local need because while PERC is  
20 currently re-engineering its process to lower tonnage  
21 in a different design criteria and we are in  
22 construction with an anticipated opening date in the  
23 summertime waste needs somewhere to go. We  
24 originally anticipated having a transfer operation to  
25 transfer down to Norridgewock, but the Town of

1 Hampden did not approve that, did not wish it, so  
2 that means that infrastructure would have to be put  
3 in place for small trash trucks to drive all the way  
4 down to Norridgewock. There is insufficient trash  
5 trucks and transfer infrastructure for that to  
6 happen; therefore, there would be insufficient trucks  
7 to collect the waste and/or dispose of it means waste  
8 would go uncollected or undisposed. Having that  
9 local disposal is critical during these periods if  
10 PERC is unavailable or if our plant is unconstructed.  
11 And we've actually entered into a waste swap  
12 agreement with Waste Management to allow efficient  
13 movement of vehicles, which is both cost-effective  
14 and environmentally appropriate.

15           And then finally, the common sense approach  
16 is that landfill is a very important part of the  
17 waste infrastructure. It takes a village to collect  
18 and process waste and landfill is part of it, both  
19 ourselves and PERC have disposal and residues and we  
20 need landfill availability. While we provide the  
21 highest recovery, PERC is the second highest recovery  
22 a landfill gives us the highest robustness and that's  
23 why we're in support. Thank you.

24           MS. MILLER: Okay. We'll do one more in  
25 support and then we'll switch over to some opposition

1 comments. I have a Matt Adams.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Matt Adams.) I'll pass.  
3 Pass.

4 MS. MILLER: Okay. All right. Howard  
5 Mower.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Howard Mower.) I pass.

7 MS. MILLER: Okay. Steve Emera.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Steve Emera.) I pass.

9 MS. MILLER: All right. Maybe that's a  
10 signal we should switch over to the opposition side,  
11 so we'll do that. The first person I have listed is  
12 John Banks.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for the  
14 opportunity to speak tonight. My name is John Banks.  
15 I'm the Natural Resources Director for the Penobscot  
16 Indian Nation. Tonight I'm speaking here on my own  
17 behalf as well as the Penobscot Indian Nation, but  
18 I'm also speaking on behalf of the many fish and  
19 wildlife and insects and birds and fish and other  
20 critters that don't have a voice that are impacted by  
21 this decision tonight. So I do raise an opposition  
22 to this -- to this amendment mainly for two reasons;  
23 one, I'm very concerned that the continued acceptance  
24 of untreated MSW at this facility will eventually  
25 have a very adverse negative impact on the ecology of

1 the whole region. The dump sits right between two  
2 major tributaries to the Penobscot River and  
3 immediately upstream from the Penobscot Indian  
4 Reservation at Indian Island, so we're very concerned  
5 about the impacts of the ecology of this whole  
6 region. The second reason I'm opposed to this  
7 amendment is that I don't believe that it does  
8 comport with the intent of the hierarchy that was  
9 recently put into statute by the Maine Legislature.  
10 So thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

11 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. I have  
12 listed Kevin Roche.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is  
14 Kevin Roche and I serve as Manager for Ecomaine.  
15 I've served in this role for the last 13 years and I  
16 thank you for the opportunity to speak on the subject  
17 matter. I'm here in opposition to the amendment.

18 For those of you who may not be familiar  
19 with Ecomaine, we are a quasi-municipal non-profit  
20 organization. We have 73 member communities and the  
21 organization is covered by a 27 member board of  
22 directors. We own and operate a recycling -- a  
23 single-sort recycling facility, a waste energy  
24 facility, a landfill and we have initiated a new food  
25 waste recovery program and some of the

1 state-of-the-art educational outreach programs that  
2 go along with supporting our initiatives.

3           Going right to the license -- the original  
4 license amendment, I think there are several  
5 statements that really point to the direction that  
6 this was a temporary measure. In fact, on Page 25  
7 this limitation is appropriate to ensure that  
8 activities at JRL support and do not subvert the  
9 waste management hierarchy. To me, that is huge  
10 because I think we actually are going the opposite  
11 direction. The other thing that concerns me is the  
12 tonnage increases each year over the last four years.  
13 In 2004, 36,000 tons -- I'm sorry, 2014, 36,000 tons;  
14 then we jumped a year later 57,000 tons; the next  
15 year, 69,000 tons. We're going in the wrong  
16 direction when it comes to landfilling.

17           Interestingly, the Ecomaine Board of  
18 Directors is in a very similar space that you are in.  
19 We own and operate a landfill and we have the choice  
20 as to how quickly we fill that landfill. Our  
21 communities have decided to -- over the years have  
22 decided to take great measures to make sure that that  
23 landfill is available for future generations. We  
24 have capacity through 2044. We would not have that  
25 capacity if we didn't -- if we didn't experience a

1 little bit of pain to make sure that recyclable  
2 materials don't end up at the waste energy facility,  
3 to make sure that we remove as much food waste as  
4 possible, to make sure that we reduce the waste mass  
5 by 90 percent. We could make a whole lot of money if  
6 we simply landfilled all of our waste. That would be  
7 the a short-term very economically favorable way  
8 forward for us, but our member communities have  
9 really taken the steps necessary to reduce the amount  
10 of waste that ends up in the landfill, which is in  
11 South Portland, and is probably one of the few  
12 landfills across the country that still has capacity  
13 and future years of capacity so close to the most  
14 densely populated area of Maine.

15           And I'm going to skip because I know I have  
16 my three minutes. But in closing, denying the  
17 current application would simply mean that JRL would  
18 go back to the way it was operating before the 2013  
19 license amendment. Almost five years have passed and  
20 very little has been done to improve waste diversion  
21 from that landfill. In fact, tonnage has increased  
22 over the years and that's a sign that we are going in  
23 the wrong direction. We ask you to make the bottom  
24 wrung of the waste hierarchy a little more painful so  
25 it doesn't became so easy to store waste in the State

1 of Maine.

2           If you are unable to deny this application  
3 outright then I would ask at the very least that you  
4 respectfully consider one of two options to reduce  
5 our dependency on landfills going forward. First,  
6 reduce the tonnage each year that you allow into this  
7 landfill perhaps by 15 percent per year so that over  
8 a period of years you're off the dependency of  
9 landfilling. If that's not an option then I would  
10 encourage you to work with the Legislature to place a  
11 fee on storing waste in our state. This waste will  
12 eventually come back to haunt us. Landfills are a  
13 forever proposition and we would have to manage those  
14 sites forever. We don't want our future generations  
15 responsible for managing our waste going forward.

16           Thank you for your time and consideration  
17 and I'd be happy to answer any questions if there are  
18 any.

19           MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. One more  
20 comment in opposition. I have Karen Spitfire.

21           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Karen  
22 Spitfire. I live in Belfast and I'm representing  
23 myself. It's really hard to understand all of this  
24 gobbledegook. I don't understand all of it and it  
25 takes, you know, an engineering degree and a lot of

1 other things to understand it except that every time  
2 Juniper Ridge wants something they get it and every  
3 time it's always a lie that there is no solid waste  
4 from out-of-state coming in. So I don't believe that  
5 this is going to be followed and I think that what  
6 the gentleman before -- the two gentlemen before me  
7 said I'll say that again. Thank you.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I'm going to switch  
9 back to commenters in support. TJ Troiano.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is  
11 TJ Troiano. I represent Troiano Waste Services.  
12 We're a hauling company servicing Southern and  
13 Midcoast Maine. I'm speaking in support. I'd like  
14 to thank you for the time.

15 More than anything I guess I'm worried about  
16 stranded tonnage. It's real. Maybe there isn't any  
17 stranded tonnage, at that point JRL won't need to  
18 accept it, but if this -- I'm looking at if there is  
19 stranded tonnage what are we going to do with it.  
20 I'd rather have them have a permit and not receive  
21 the tonnage than put ourselves as a state up against  
22 the wall and not have a place for this waste to go.  
23 I do agree with the hierarchy and we as a company  
24 haul recyclables that are single-sort, OCC metals, we  
25 operate a transfer station as well and we're pulling

1 that material out of our flow before it goes up, but  
2 we depend on JRL for some of our times we have  
3 nowhere to go with or in times when other plants are  
4 backed up.

5           Then there is a second part, and I know it's  
6 a little odd here, but running trailer trucks up to  
7 the Bangor area and to Old Town also helps us get  
8 material from the state down to Massachusetts. You  
9 know, we haul a lot of the bark mulch back and logs  
10 and what not, so, you know, the trucks are coming up  
11 here, it's allowing to do a subsidized freight to get  
12 stuff out of the State of Maine as well. And you've  
13 got -- you've also got communities up north that need  
14 to get to the landfill because there isn't an  
15 incinerator that has capacity, you know, up north and  
16 you've got to worry about those guys as well. We're  
17 lucky in Southern Maine, we have an incinerator, but  
18 our company obviously is hauling in more than just  
19 Southern Maine, so. More than anything I'm in  
20 support of it and I just worry about the stranded  
21 tonnage over the few years. Thank you.

22           MS. MILLER: Thank you. Kurtis Brown.

23           AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Kurtis Brown.  
24 I've worked for Casella for about five years. I'm  
25 from Old Town. I'm in support and I believe it's a

1 very well run, clean and operated facility.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Jason Forbes.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Jason  
4 Forbes. I live in Herman. I'm here to represent  
5 Allen's Environmental Incorporated. We are a small  
6 Maine owned environmental company. I know firsthand  
7 how Casella runs their operation. I'm the guy in it  
8 doing all of the environmental clean-up. There is  
9 nobody in this room that has had more personal  
10 exposure to everything coming out of that plant than  
11 myself.

12 I can tell you first off we didn't think  
13 about the big picture. This was a permit that was  
14 put in in 2012 until this next coming month. It's  
15 already here. The numbers that I've heard are low  
16 going to the high. Well, the permit was for 81,000  
17 tons. It didn't reach that yet. It started off at  
18 31 and so on and so forth, so the numbers have  
19 actually been lower. Again, this is for the existing  
20 landfill. The landfill is going to expand. It's  
21 almost at capacity. This is just for the existing  
22 landfill. So the MSW that's going to come in is  
23 going to go into the facility that's already lined.  
24 I know -- the landfill is like a prison, nobody wants  
25 it in their backyard, but I can tell you firsthand

1 Casella's number one priority is safety of their crew  
2 and environment. I am there on a weekly basis. I do  
3 all of the preventative maintenance there. Any time  
4 there is a spill I am personally called in and I can  
5 tell you nobody handles it with more integrity than  
6 Casella and more promptness than Casella and I  
7 support it 100 percent. Thank you.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. I'm going to  
9 switch back to opposition comments and I've got  
10 Barbara Moore.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Barbara Moore.) I wonder  
12 if I could just defer my three minutes to the  
13 gentleman from Ecomaine to continue the points he was  
14 unable to make.

15 MS. MILLER: Sure.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Kevin Roche.) I swear  
17 we've never met.

18 (Laughter.)

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Kevin Roche.) Have we?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Barbara Moore.) No.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Kevin Roche.) Just a  
22 couple of things because I think it's important  
23 to understand. The efforts that take place when you  
24 make landfilling a little bit more difficult and  
25 that's what I think is missing in our state. We --

1 you know, we are surrounded by states that are taking  
2 better initiatives at landfill diversion than the  
3 State of Maine is and I don't want to become one of  
4 the mid-Western states that basically relies on  
5 landfills and these mountains of trash that is going  
6 to be left over. Again, as I said in my earlier  
7 remarks that's going to be a very expensive  
8 proposition for future generations.

9           One of the partners that we've developed a  
10 relationship with is Exeter Agri-Energy. This year  
11 5,000 tons of food waste from the Ecomaine facility  
12 will be delivered to Exeter Agri-Energy where it will  
13 be digested and utilized for energy generation,  
14 fertilizer and bedding for the animals. This program  
15 has put Exeter, Maine on the map. And I'm nationally  
16 speaking. There is no other program that has been as  
17 successful as the Exeter model and that is because we  
18 are looking for alternatives to land -- than  
19 landfilling food waste. And if landfilling is the  
20 cheapest option, it's very difficult to initiate  
21 these types of programs.

22           Another program that we're getting under way  
23 is the mining of our ash fill. A number of years ago  
24 we mined 40,000 tons of ferrous metals from the ash  
25 fill. You can't do that at a landfill. We went

1 through -- it was a four year project. We mined  
2 40,000 tons of metals. To date since the opening of  
3 the waste energy facility we have recovered 100,000  
4 tons of ferrous metal from the waste energy project.  
5 Starting later this year, we will we will billed and  
6 construct a facility that will recover non-ferrous  
7 because the first time around we only got the ferrous  
8 out. If we'd gone after the non-ferrous -- the  
9 technology wasn't there. The technology is there now  
10 to go after the non-ferrous and we will be  
11 constructing that project.

12 I'd also like to give you a real life  
13 example of the 2000 amendment. There is a community  
14 that I'm not going to mention in Southern Maine,  
15 okay, they have curbside solid waste. I am -- I  
16 can't believe that in 2018 they -- and they're  
17 surrounded by communities that have curbside solid  
18 waste and curbside recycling, that they do not have  
19 curbside recycling, which means all of those  
20 recyclables except those for the 10 percent that are  
21 delivered to a far away transfer station are  
22 collected with the solid waste and delivered probably  
23 to a landfill such as Old Town. So it goes 157 miles  
24 up from Southern Maine up to Central Maine and it's  
25 probably buried in one of these two landfills that

1 you have up there probably never to be recovered.  
2 This is the result of bad policy. We need good  
3 policy to make it a little more painful, as I  
4 mentioned before, to enable waste program or a proper  
5 recovery program to be enabled and employed in our  
6 communities and the only way that's going to make it  
7 happen is if landfilling becomes a little less  
8 desirable and it's up to good solid waste policy to  
9 make that happen, so thank you very much.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Kathy Paul.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is  
12 Kathy Paul. I'm from Penobscot Nation and I  
13 represent the interests of children in the children  
14 of the future. I'm worried about my children because  
15 what if there is a hole that leaks? What if there is  
16 something that goes wrong and when it goes -- expires  
17 past the time that the liner is -- when the liner is  
18 no good anymore. I'm concerned about that and then  
19 what happens to our beautiful river and the birds and  
20 everything? I really don't think we're taking a lot  
21 of time to think about the future and why are we  
22 taking everybody's trash. I just don't get it. I  
23 mean, I understand money, but what's it going to get  
24 you? It's not going to get you a longer life. It's  
25 going to get everything polluted. Thank you.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Next I have Cheryl  
2 Spencer.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Cheryl  
4 Spencer and I live in Old Town. West Old Town. The  
5 dump is in my backyard/frontyard and we've dealt with  
6 it for many, many years. It's a very tiring  
7 experience to have it there and have to appear every  
8 time a new license or amendment is asked for. It's a  
9 long history of tales I'll say. When it first came  
10 to our community is was associated with the paper  
11 mill and it took only paper mill sludge. Then came  
12 the resolve that changed all of that. It was a  
13 construction and demolition debris landfill. Then we  
14 heard a story about how -- how they needed soft waste  
15 for construction, however they were receiving ash and  
16 they were receiving biosolids or sewerage sludge.  
17 These are soft materials. I would ask you that you  
18 not allow them to continue with this amendment.  
19 They've had five years to change. They gave up their  
20 incinerator and they were given sufficient time to  
21 change their practice. Those practices have not  
22 changed and I would ask that you end it now. Thank  
23 you.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. We're going  
25 to switch back to those in support of. I've got Jake

1 Deroche.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Jake. I've  
3 worked for Casella for two months on the hill and in  
4 the gas treatment plant and I see how the operation  
5 is run. It's a clean, contained operation and I'm  
6 for it. Thank you.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Victor Horton.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. Good evening. My  
9 name is Victor Horton, Executive Director of Maine  
10 Resource Recovery Association. We're a statewide  
11 materials management trade association. We are  
12 membership based. We serve cities and towns as well  
13 as businesses across the state. Our mission is to  
14 foster professional solid waste management practices  
15 and to further the development of recycling and other  
16 forms of waste resource recovery. Many of our  
17 members use the MRC, Municipal Review Committee, to  
18 handle their solid waste and anticipate delivering  
19 tonnage to the Fiberight's Coastal Resource of Maine,  
20 CRM, Hampden Processing Facility. It is because of  
21 this plan that Maine Resource Recovery Association  
22 encourages the expansion of the Juniper Ridge  
23 Landfill license to accept unprocessed municipal  
24 solid waste for an additional one year period. We  
25 feel that it is important to keep this temporary

1 extension to one year. We recommend that a premium  
2 be charged on this solid waste to support Maine's  
3 Solid Waste Hierarchy by providing grants to help  
4 towns throughout the state with waste diversion and  
5 recycling for an additional one year period. And I  
6 have copies if you'd like them.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Amanda Willey.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Amanda Willey.) I'll  
9 pass.

10 MS. MILLER: Okay. David.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (David Willey.) I pass  
12 too.

13 MS. MILLER: You pass too. Okay. Thank  
14 you. Let's see. Kevin Howell.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Kevin Howell.) Thank you  
16 for the opportunity to provide comments on the  
17 Juniper Ridge Landfill amendment application to allow  
18 the disposal of unprocessed MSW at JRL.

19 My name is Kevin Howell. I am representing  
20 the Town of Carmel and I'm also one of the newest  
21 board members for MRC, the Municipal Review  
22 Committee. When I became town manager, one of my  
23 first decisions was to recommend where Carmel's  
24 municipal solid waste would be sent after March 31,  
25 2018. It was a responsibility I took seriously and I

1 conducted my own research on MRC's plan to send MSW  
2 to the new processing and recycling facility in  
3 Hampden. What struck me immediately was how thorough  
4 the MRC's plan for this project and at the time same  
5 reached the goal of processed waste in our region  
6 affordably and into the future. With that in mind,  
7 Carmel is a proud joining member of the MRC. This  
8 organization is collectively solving our region's  
9 waste issues environmentally and economically.

10           Now, as a new MRC board member, I have the  
11 responsibility to represent Carmel and 114 other  
12 Maine communities who plan to send their MSW to CRM,  
13 Coastal Resource Management, to Fiberight in Hampden  
14 as soon as practicable. CRM processing facility  
15 provides the opportunity for all waste generators  
16 within Eastern and Central Maine communities to  
17 achieve a new level of diversion of MSW for  
18 conventional landfill disposal in accordance with the  
19 state solid waste hierarchy.

20           As you've heard, CRM/Fiberight and Pine Tree  
21 Waste, a subsidiary of Casella, have come to an  
22 agreement that PTW will deliver at least 40,000 tons  
23 per year of commercial MSW to the Hampden Processing  
24 Facility. This will help balance waste supply in our  
25 winter months when generated waste amounts are lower

1 and help ensure the financial success of the  
2 facility. Joining members of the MRC will also  
3 receive a share of revenue of the facility. In order  
4 to maximize the opportunity for success of the CRM  
5 facility the MRC is supporting JRL amendment  
6 application. The CRM and PTW agreement is subject  
7 and conditioned to the approval of this application.  
8 Given the importance to the success of CRM -- of the  
9 CRM project to the 115 MRC member communities, I'm  
10 respectfully requesting that the Department approve  
11 the amendment application in a timely manner. To do  
12 so will undoubtedly support the opportunity for CRM  
13 to succeed long-term. Thank you.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you. We're going to  
15 switch back to comments in opposition. Ryan Parker.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is  
17 Ryan Parker. I'm here representing the Natural  
18 Resources Counsel of Maine. I really appreciate the  
19 opportunity to speak in opposition to the application  
20 in question.

21 When the state took ownership of JRL it was  
22 intended that no MSW other than bypass would be  
23 accepted and the amendment to accept 81,800 tons was  
24 intended to be an emergency response to a sudden  
25 closure of the waste-to-energy facility in Biddeford,

1 not a permanent solution. The Maine Department of  
2 Environmental Protection itself pointed this out in a  
3 February 15 letter to the applicants.

4 NRCM agrees with many of the points and  
5 requests for information outlined in the Department's  
6 letter. Those requests can best be summed up by a  
7 single sentence in section four of the Department's  
8 request for additional information. Quote, it is  
9 unclear that there are no other outlets for the MSW,  
10 end quote. In addition to the Department, some Maine  
11 legislators have pointed out that the intent of state  
12 ownership of the landfill seems to have been at least  
13 partially forgotten. Additionally, there appears to  
14 be little, if any, evidence that attempts have been  
15 made to reduce the volume or find an alternative  
16 disposal method for MSW.

17 The Department specifically requests several  
18 types of information including, but not limited to,  
19 facts and figures providing a compelling argument or  
20 adequate evidence concerning existing disposal  
21 capacity in the state; facts and figures providing a  
22 compelling argument or adequate evidence concerning  
23 disposal capacity outside the state but within  
24 similar driving distance to JRL; scientifically based  
25 information for the claims about hydrogen sulfide

1 abatement; information about why MSW is a good  
2 bulking agent for areas that have settled; and  
3 information about what was done to alleviate these  
4 and other problems prior to the temporary license  
5 provision.

6           In addition to these and the other questions  
7 asked by the Department and issues raised by  
8 legislators during a briefing before, and subsequent  
9 letter from, some of those legislators, it is  
10 important to remember that, according to the State's  
11 Solid Waste Hierarchy, whether or not the MSW in  
12 question may be beneficial to the operations of the  
13 applicants is not, in and of itself, grounds for yet  
14 another extension with no hope or guarantee of  
15 efforts to reduce or realign this waste with the  
16 hierarchy.

17           NRCM and our 20,000 members and supporters,  
18 some of whom live in towns adjacent to or near, the  
19 Juniper Ridge Landfill, including Alton, Eddington,  
20 Glenburn, Milford, Old Town, Orono and Stillwater,  
21 have a strong interest in protecting the integrity of  
22 Maine's Solid Waste Hierarchy and its importance in  
23 licensing criteria. Active efforts to adhere to the  
24 hierarchy promote sustainable materials management  
25 and could lead to significant long-term advantages,

1 including financial and environmental savings, as  
2 well as slowing the fill of available landfill space.

3 An extension of acceptance of 81,800 tons of  
4 MSW to Juniper Ridge Landfill until landfill capacity  
5 is reached runs counter to 06-096 C.M.R. Chapter 400,  
6 the Solid Waste Management Rules: General Provision,  
7 particularly as it pertains to the solid waste  
8 hierarchy. Further, this application runs counter to  
9 the original intent of the landfill and the original  
10 amendment.

11 NRCM recommends the Department reject this  
12 application due to the substantial inadequacies  
13 highlighted in DEP's letter to the applicants. At  
14 the very least, we join you, and members of the  
15 Legislature, in seeking more information from the  
16 applicant to justify this seemingly unjustifiable  
17 application.

18 I also have copies. Thank you very much.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Bill Lippincott.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Bill  
21 Lippincott. I live in Hampden. I sent a letter to  
22 DEP on January 22 and I'm just going to summarize a  
23 few of my main points there. There are other things  
24 I talk about in the letter, which I would like  
25 considered, but I want to just focus on the main

1 points.

2           The state purchased Juniper Ridge in 2004.  
3 At that time, no unprocessed MSW was allowed  
4 consistent with state policy from 2004 to 2012. The  
5 reason to have a state-owned landfill is so the state  
6 has the option of controlling what goes into that  
7 landfill so that they can exclude waste such as  
8 out-of-state waste and MSW. It doesn't fit in with  
9 state policy. And before the hierarchy was statutory  
10 it was -- it was still a state policy. It is now the  
11 law. This has been granted three major exceptions to  
12 the same policy to exclude unprocessed MSW, but it  
13 doesn't appear that they made any serious effort to  
14 find an alternative location for the 81,800 tons that  
15 they want to go in at Juniper Ridge. I think they  
16 assume that they can continue to do this and they say  
17 they're only going to do this for the capacity of the  
18 present permitted landfill, but I suspect come the  
19 filling of that they will go for this again.

20           If the state wants to allow Casella to use  
21 Juniper Ridge for MSW, we're really providing a  
22 naturally low subsidy for landfilling MSW. And  
23 naturally low because they don't take into account  
24 the cost and difficulty of locating and developing a  
25 new landfill for the long-term environmental

1 consequences of landfilling. And I was in Augusta  
2 and I heard Mike Barden talk about the other  
3 alternatives, Carpenter Ridge and Dolby, and how  
4 difficult and expensive those alternatives would be.  
5 So at the point where we use up this landfill it's  
6 going to be a major problem to locate and a major  
7 expense to develop another landfill, so that's my  
8 main point. This goes against the hierarchy.

9           And just a couple of comments. I heard one  
10 speaker say that MSW is better than some other things  
11 they've put in the landfills as far as producing  
12 landfill gas and that really astonished me because  
13 MSW is a prime generator of methane. And I've heard  
14 Greg Stuart-Paul mention that it's essential to have  
15 this landfill because there is always going to be  
16 bypass and this is, you know, a great need and I  
17 can -- I can understand that need, but this request  
18 for 81,000 plus unprocessed MSW is not bypass, so  
19 this has nothing to do with that point.

20           And I'll just -- one more point. I've made  
21 other comments before DEP. My experiences with  
22 Casella's history at Pine Tree Landfill and they have  
23 a documented history and I've given that in my  
24 comments in the past of exceeding their predicted  
25 capacity. They fill things at a much faster rate

1 than they -- when they first apply for a certain  
2 capacity all of a sudden instead of 10 years they're  
3 running out of space in five and I see that pattern  
4 again here. So I thank you.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. ED Spencer.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Ed Spencer. I  
7 live in West Old Town within two miles of Juniper  
8 Ridge. Some great comments in opposition. This  
9 would be a gross violation of the waste hierarchy,  
10 which was not statutory in 2013 when we started this  
11 process. It's been five years. They should have  
12 figured out where it can go by now. I don't think  
13 that we can trust that they're going to stop when  
14 this landfill space is full and there may be more  
15 important things to put in there than some towns from  
16 Southern Maine's curbside waste. This stuff about  
17 MSW being some vital material for grading and bulking  
18 sludge, they signed a contract to operate that  
19 landfill when MSW was banned from it, so now all of a  
20 sudden this material is so important that it sounds  
21 like they can't do without it. I just wonder how  
22 they're going to manage without it. And I also heard  
23 Mr. Barden talk to the ENR Committee in the  
24 Legislature saying how it was going to cost these  
25 towns \$150 a ton to take it to PERC. That really

1 offends me. It's supposed to be the state as owner  
2 to be protecting our hierarchy and not speaking like  
3 cheerleader for Casella.

4 I've learned through -- by the way, the  
5 letter asking questions from DEP to them on February  
6 15 is excellent. And that's only when I learned that  
7 apparently there is 14 communities in Southern Maine  
8 that have disposal at JRL listed as their long-term  
9 destination for their curbside waste. How can that  
10 be? They only had, you know, until next month and  
11 you're signing long-term contracts that says, oh,  
12 yeah, it's going to go to Juniper Ridge. I think  
13 they're making promises that hopefully they can't  
14 keep. There is other places to go. I know in Old  
15 Town when we looked at, you know, whether to go with  
16 Fiberight, stay with PERC, one of the options was to  
17 go to Haverhill, Mass, there is a waste energy plant  
18 there that is probably closer than Ecomaine is even  
19 to some of those towns.

20 Something I thought of when I saw an article  
21 about the -- I'm a logger so the Emerald Ash Borer is  
22 wiping out ash trees across the country and the  
23 communities in New Hampshire are a -- are under  
24 quarantine now, which is just across the line. So  
25 any time you have material coming from that extreme

1 Southern Maine to up in here it could serve as a  
2 vector, maybe not so much in MSW, but in any woody  
3 debris.

4           And I think also this Westbrook transfer  
5 station they're talking about we should be paying --  
6 I hope you're paying strict attention to what's  
7 coming into that, okay, that it really is from  
8 these -- these Southern Maine communities and it's  
9 not like, oh, a couple of truck loads a week from  
10 Massachusetts where their Southbridge landfill is due  
11 to close by the end of this year, so that's going to  
12 be roughly half the volume coming into here. I think  
13 3 or 400,000 tons is going to need some place to go  
14 so we should kind of keep our guard up on that.

15           I guess that's about it. I thank DEP for  
16 coming up here and putting this on and everybody  
17 showing up to speak and I once again urge you don't  
18 extend it. They've had five years. It's not going  
19 to be piling up in the streets of Biddeford,  
20 something will happen. And if you're one of those  
21 communities that has a long-term contract to bring  
22 that stuff up here, I would ask the attorney general  
23 to void that contract. That's not -- that's not  
24 right. And the state -- there should be some  
25 mechanism whereby the state controls what those

1 contracts are saying, so thanks again.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. We're going  
3 to switch back to comments in support. I've got Ben  
4 Breadmore.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much. My  
6 name is Benjamin Breadmore. I'm a resident of the  
7 Town of Holden and I have the honor of serving as the  
8 town manager for my community.

9 My community is one of 115 municipalities  
10 that are members of the Municipal Review Committee.  
11 Allowing for disposal of unprocessed municipal solid  
12 waste at the state-owned landfill of Juniper Ridge is  
13 in the best interests of those 115 communities,  
14 Holden included. Trash is an expensive item on every  
15 budget and is a cost that is never going away, but  
16 through partnership and continued efforts by both  
17 private and public sectors I believe we can do what's  
18 in the best interest of our citizens for the whole  
19 state. I hope you will consider supporting the  
20 approval of this application. Thank you.

21 MS. MILLER: Karen Fussell.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Director Miller and  
23 others, thank you very much for the opportunity to  
24 provide comments tonight on the JRL amendment  
25 application to allow disposal of unprocessed MSW

1 beyond March 31.

2 My name is Karen Fussell. I'm the Finance  
3 Director for the City of Brewer and I also serve as  
4 Vice President of the Municipal Review Committee  
5 Board of Directors.

6 Brewer is proud to have been in February of  
7 2016 the first community to sign as a joining member  
8 as they commit to delivering its MSW to the new waste  
9 processing facility in Hampden. I'm here tonight on  
10 the behalf of the city to strongly encourage the DEP  
11 to approve this license application. The application  
12 before you seeks to extend a policy that succeeded in  
13 its goal of supporting the PERC facility and the  
14 State Solid Waste Hierarchy. It now stands to  
15 provide immediate and important support to the  
16 Coastal waste processing facility Hampden. While  
17 landfills represent the lowest rung on the solid  
18 waste hierarchy they nonetheless fill an important  
19 role in ensuring sound and stable waste disposal  
20 systems.

21 In this case, extension of the limited use  
22 of JRL will serve to support the development of the  
23 Coastal Hampden Waste Processing Facility and ensure  
24 its long-term diversion and processing success, which  
25 in turn will benefit the region and the state as a

1 whole with regard to the State's Solid Waste  
2 Hierarchy goals. Approval of this license  
3 application will also help to preserve significant  
4 benefits flow control provides to the economics of  
5 waste processing. The City of Brewer has long had in  
6 place a flow control ordinance that directs where  
7 waste generated within our borders shall be disposed.  
8 Coastal's agreement with Pine Tree ensures that this  
9 important provision will be respected, however that  
10 agreement is conditioned upon the approval of the  
11 license amendment before you. For these important, I  
12 urge I to approve this license application. Thank  
13 you for your time.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Vaughn Leach.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Vaughn Leach.) Thank you  
16 for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the permit  
17 for Juniper Ridge's extension. I represent a five  
18 member community down on the peninsula of Blue  
19 Hill/Surry Waste Committee, Chairman of the Board, 38  
20 years in the solid waste industry as my own private  
21 business and now hauling demolition debris.

22 We've worked closely with the MRC throughout  
23 the process of getting Fiberight as our choice. We  
24 were, I think I can proudly say, the tipping scale on  
25 the tonnage to bring Fiberight into existence. And I

1 would encourage the DEP that there is many  
2 communities out there, 114 I guess I'm hearing, which  
3 I don't think many people in this room are  
4 pro-advocates for landfill. That's not what anyone  
5 from our communities want, but we are looking at  
6 what's current and what is our situation right now  
7 and I don't want to see stalled tonnage. I don't  
8 want them to see trans-loading and having to go to  
9 Biddeford when we can do something in Juniper Ridge  
10 and be way more economical. And I would encourage  
11 the DEP to seriously consider that there is affecting  
12 a wide, wide spread bunch of communities and we  
13 appreciate your support in this. Thank you.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. We're going  
15 to switch back to comments in opposition. Susan  
16 Lauchlan.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Susan Lauchlan.  
18 I'm from Waldo. And my comment is very brief. I ask  
19 you to deny the application amendment. The applicant  
20 has had five years to find an alternative. They have  
21 not done so. Let's close this loophole and protect  
22 the environment. Thank you.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Sorry in advance,  
24 Meredith Bruskin.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's because I'm a nurse

1 practitioner you cannot read my writing.

2 I'm Meredith Bruskin. And I appreciate the  
3 chance to speak with you. My concern is the health  
4 and welfare of the communities surrounding this. And  
5 as the gentleman from Ecomaine talked about so  
6 clearly, we need to make it a little bit more  
7 difficult for all of us to rely on landfills. That's  
8 why it's on the bottom of the hierarchy. I heard  
9 that what the request is it's not for a year. One of  
10 the gentlemen in support said please approve this for  
11 one more year. I heard clearly this is elimination  
12 of any time line, so that's a wide open -- that's  
13 fill it up in four years, maybe three, and then go to  
14 the next extension.

15 I think honestly we all need to pay  
16 attention to our -- the health of our communities and  
17 our future generations and to start to cut back, so I  
18 don't want to see this as an open elimination of any  
19 time line. If you feel it needs to be used for a  
20 particular period of time be specific, be careful.  
21 Try to consider cutting back yearly 15 percent. I  
22 mean, nobody wants, what's it called, abandoned  
23 waste. We all know we've got lots of it, but we need  
24 to really be pushing all of our communities to do  
25 this in a different fashion. Nothing is slowing

1 down. We have way too much stuff, we know that.

2 And the Penobscot River -- the Penobscot  
3 river is right there and it is the life of our state.  
4 Certainly this part of our state, the life blood, so  
5 that too is of grave concern for me. So I would just  
6 caution, caution. It's a big question what to do  
7 with waste, but this is way open-ended.

8 As others have said, five years, I haven't  
9 heard anything about looking for alternatives. It  
10 was Casella themselves that closed PERC. I think  
11 there were some concern about regulations. So let's  
12 really look at what -- how we can keep control of  
13 this thing and think about the health and welfare of  
14 our people, our children and the land and the river.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Peter Crockett.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Peter  
18 Crockett from Argyle, Maine. I am a neighbor of the  
19 Juniper Ridge Landfill. I've sat here and I've  
20 watched almost eight people that have spoken in favor  
21 of this have economic ties, they're either  
22 subcontractors or employees. This is a finite space  
23 we're talking about and it seems to me from watching  
24 these proceedings over a couple of years that Casella  
25 is taking on the role of an addict because they want

1 to do what's fast and easy and makes them a lot of  
2 money and approving that would kind of make the DEP  
3 play the role of the enabler. And the gentleman from  
4 Southern Maine from Ecomaine spoke of the numbers  
5 gaining each year, which is in total opposition of  
6 what the state hierarchy, which is now law, should be  
7 created. They should be dropping off every year, you  
8 know, one less cigarette every day kind of thing.

9 I would like to ask you to look very, very  
10 closely about whether this application should be  
11 approved because they're just kicking the can down  
12 the road and one of these generations sooner or  
13 later, our children or our childrens' children, are  
14 going to pay a very dear price for us because it's  
15 cheap for us. Thank you for your time.

16 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. We're going  
17 to go back to comments in support. Jeffrey  
18 Pelletier.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Jeffrey  
20 Pelletier and I've been a Casella employee for close  
21 to eight years now. I'm also a City of Old Town -- I  
22 also live in the City of Old Town. If you actually  
23 go about 200 feet from my house you can actually see  
24 the landfill, so. Working for Casella for roughly  
25 eight years I know how the operation is run. I'm

1 actively involved with compliance and monitoring of  
2 both Juniper Ridge and Pine Tree Landfill in Hampden.  
3 I know the people there. They're determined.  
4 They're hard workers. They care about the city and  
5 all of the community members that live there.

6           When I first started working at Casella I  
7 never thought I'd ever work in the waste industry at  
8 all and I came from a background of maintenance in  
9 aircraft and I've come to find Casella as my home.  
10 And I hear a lot of people here dogging Casella for  
11 not, you know, pushing towards recycling. Well, it  
12 doesn't -- you don't have to look hard to see where  
13 Casella is recycling, you know. Every community or  
14 most of the communities in the local area Casella is  
15 doing their recycling, so it's not that Casella is  
16 not trying to recycle it's -- sometimes it takes more  
17 than just Casella to recycle. Casella can't force  
18 people to recycle. The waste is being generated by  
19 everybody in the community.

20           So what I'm concerned about is the stranded  
21 waste. I mean, growing up I remember growing up in  
22 the '80s and it doesn't seem like that long ago, but  
23 I'd go to the -- I'd go to the lake next to my house  
24 where we had a camp there and we couldn't even swim  
25 in the lake because we got like duckage and there was

1 pollution and everything else. What I'm worried  
2 about is the stranded MSW or trash not getting  
3 properly taken care of. I know at Juniper Ridge it  
4 is properly taken care of because I oversee a lot of  
5 it. And I think this application is important to us  
6 because it's an avenue to have good waste disposal,  
7 so if anything else it's an option, you know, without  
8 this application it's not an option, so anyway. So  
9 I'm in support of the application. Thank you.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Ben Worcester.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Ben Worcester. I'm  
12 from Southwest Harbor. I own and manage EMR  
13 Incorporated, which provides solid waste and bulky  
14 waste services for MDI area communities. We do  
15 operate in conformance with the hierarchy. We  
16 provide a recycling center. We collect scrap metals.  
17 We collect and deliver waste woods for biofuels. We  
18 also collect and deliver compostables to Juniper  
19 Ridge, we collect construction debris and deliver  
20 that to Dolby and our MSW presently goes to Penobscot  
21 Energy and in the future will go to Fiberight. It is  
22 imperative for the communities that we serve that  
23 there be a place that we can deliver MSW in the  
24 period -- especially in the period of time where  
25 we're not delivering to PERC or to Fiberight and that

1 could be for several months and in -- we're building  
2 up into our busy summer season and we need an  
3 alternative where we can take this material. I am  
4 very much in support of this amendment. Thank you.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Jeff McBurnie.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. Good evening.  
7 My name is Jeff McBurnie. I'm a resident of the Town  
8 of Holden and I'm also the Director of Permitting  
9 Regulatory Affairs for Casella Organics, which is a  
10 subsidiary of Casella Waste Systems. As such, we  
11 manage roughly almost approaching 300,000 tons of  
12 organic and mineral, industrial, municipal and  
13 agro-industrial byproducts. Ideally, we'd like to do  
14 100 percent beneficial use, but ultimately we're  
15 getting just over 75 percent of those recycled  
16 materials.

17 Now, because of the fluidity of our business  
18 we depend heavily on multiple outlets for the  
19 managing of materials. Again, mostly we like to see  
20 them go to the land, but there are times due to  
21 either seasonality or other market conditions that we  
22 do need outlets such as an incinerator or landfill so  
23 that we know those materials are still properly  
24 managed until we can find a proper home for them.  
25 Much as we need the fluidity and outlets, we also

1 need to have our outlets have that same sort of  
2 flexibility so they can manage materials to their  
3 best interest and, again, because it's a state-owned  
4 landfill so they can do this in an economical way and  
5 manage our tax dollars in the best way as possible.  
6 So in essence I'm testifying in support of this  
7 amendment both as an employee of Casella, but also as  
8 a taxpayer, so thank you for your time.

9 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. I don't know  
10 if this is Jim or Tim Dunning.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. It's Jim  
12 Dunning. I'm an Orono resident. I live up in  
13 Veazie, local to this community, and I am a Casella  
14 employee. For the last decade or so I've worked for  
15 Casella and I've worked with numerous municipalities  
16 throughout this region as well as schools,  
17 institutions in the area, all at the effort of  
18 expanding our diversion programs of solid waste into  
19 our zero-sort recycling program. Our company is very  
20 comitted to sustainability as evidenced by those  
21 programs and the work that we put into them and I  
22 just want to go on record and just demonstrate that  
23 that we have a record in this community of helping  
24 advance recycling and diversion. Obviously I'm in  
25 support of the amendment for the application. There

1 is a need for this and we're here to help the local  
2 communities in any way that we can and I appreciate  
3 your time. Thank you.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you. John Leslie.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. John  
6 Leslie. I am the Maine Division Manager for Casella  
7 Organics. I work with Jeff and we are owned by  
8 Casella Waste Systems. In Maine, we are, as Jeff  
9 indicated, we're -- we're recycling somewhere around  
10 75 to 80 percent of all of the organic waste that we  
11 manage. We do rely upon Juniper Ridge as back up to  
12 those programs. It's very important. We run a  
13 compost facility in Unity, Maine and it takes in  
14 40,000 tons a year of waste water sludge. It makes  
15 80,000 yards of compost, which we sell not just in  
16 the State of Maine but all over New England. So it's  
17 a real successful program and having the landfill as  
18 a back-up to that is really important to our  
19 facility, so I'm in support of the amendment. Thank  
20 you.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Switching back to  
22 comments in opposition. Mary Dolan.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank you  
24 for being here. My name is Mary Dolan. I'm a  
25 resident of Old Town. And I -- the previous speaker

1 in opposition to the amendment pointed out that many  
2 of the speakers for the amendment have financial  
3 interests, either contractors with Casella or  
4 employees of Casella, and I think that's a little  
5 concerning. But in addition to that there are a  
6 number of towns that have -- that were represented as  
7 towns or groups of towns who have basically come here  
8 and said we don't want this stuff, we don't want our  
9 municipal solid waste. Well, we in Old Town, we  
10 don't want it either. And there has been such a long  
11 history from the very beginning of Juniper Ridge  
12 where the -- we were told no out of state waste,  
13 that's gone by the long since; no municipal solid  
14 waste was explicitly excluded from the original  
15 license. Now that's going to be thrown out.

16 But getting back to this idea of these other  
17 towns, towns shouldn't be pitted against other towns  
18 to get rid of, what was the term somebody used,  
19 stranded tonnage. I mean, stranded tonnage comes  
20 from -- and the responsibility in part lies with the  
21 state Legislature that never addressed the idea of  
22 having another landfill. Everything comes to Old  
23 Town. All these other towns that don't want their  
24 municipal solid waste, we don't want it either.  
25 Thank you.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Dawn Neptune Adams.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Speaking in native  
3 language.) Hello. My name is Dawn Neptune Adams and  
4 I am Penobscot. I am here to speak for the river.  
5 Water is life. (Speaking in native language.) And  
6 all of the water is connected. What happens to the  
7 water in our neighborhoods and our landfills happens  
8 to water everywhere because it is all related and  
9 connected. Now, I've heard that there is a million  
10 gallons of leachate per year that is dumped into the  
11 Penobscot River after treatment, but this treatment  
12 consists of diluting it. The solution to pollution  
13 is dilution. They bring the river water in, they  
14 dilute it until it gets to an acceptable level and  
15 then they dump it right back into the river. This  
16 landfill is located in between Pushaw Stream and  
17 Birch Stream, which are the traditional hunting  
18 grounds of the Penobscot people. We do not want our  
19 sustenance fishing and hunting grounds polluted with  
20 any more of this trash. We've taken enough. And if  
21 the river is to restore itself, herself, back to  
22 health we need to cut down on this pollution. So  
23 thank you for your time and the solution to pollution  
24 is not dilution, it's no pollution.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I have a neither

1 for nor against. Bob Duchesne.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And I'm probably the only  
3 one. Yeah, I'm Bob Duchesne, a resident of Hudson.  
4 I'm about four miles away from the landfill. I'm  
5 also on the Environmental National Resources  
6 Committee for the Legislature, so I don't think it's  
7 appropriate for me to tell you what to do. This is a  
8 regulatory matter not a Legislative matter. I'm just  
9 actually here to add a little context to all of this.  
10 The state doesn't have a waste management system.  
11 What it's got is a marketplace that consists of  
12 commercial entities, governmental agencies,  
13 quasi-governmental entities. Waste flows between all  
14 these players and it always tends to flow towards the  
15 cheapest option, which is something the Legislature  
16 has had to deal with for a long time trying to figure  
17 out how to manage all of this when it's not actually  
18 a system.

19 So as you've already heard, I think a lot of  
20 the anxieties about out-of-state waste that keeps  
21 coming up over and over, that is, in fact, what  
22 triggered a lot of the laws that were established  
23 back in the late '80s to try to not be a dumping  
24 ground for trash from outside of the state. That  
25 triggered a lot of the legislation that happened back

1 then, which forms the framework for the policy that's  
2 there now. The idea was we would create our own  
3 state-owned landfill and then be able to control what  
4 goes into it. We didn't ultimately actually do that.  
5 When we finally got the landfill, we commercialized  
6 it for other reasons, other good policy reasons, so  
7 we actually didn't follow our own strategy. So the  
8 point I want to make to you all is we actually  
9 shifted strategies over the last decade, but no one  
10 has really said that out loud, so I thought I would  
11 do that tonight. What has actually happened is we've  
12 developed a different strategy over the last decade  
13 and it's -- we're basically using another blunt tool  
14 to control flow or waste. We can't control where  
15 waste goes. It's an article in commerce --  
16 interstate commerce, which we can't regulate  
17 according to the supreme court, but what we can do is  
18 regulate where it doesn't go and that's why this  
19 permit is in front of you right now and the judgement  
20 you have to make. In order to control waste flow you  
21 get to make permitting choices about where waste  
22 can't go.

23           So we actually in the Legislature did  
24 strengthen the hierarchy. We made it a regulatory  
25 standard, we beefed up the public benefits

1 determination, used that conditions and permits and  
2 hopefully we respect compliance with those  
3 conditions, in particular I think you'll be weighing  
4 number 5, condition number 5 from the last permit  
5 that is being asked to be extended. I think we can  
6 declare a partial victory. There is a lot less trash  
7 crossing the border than there was a decade ago, 15  
8 years ago. There still is more coming north than  
9 there is south. I think what's happened is a lot of  
10 out of state waste is making one stop along the way  
11 at the processing center. I favor processing centers  
12 because there is no reason that something of value  
13 should go to a landfill if it's not processed along  
14 the way. I would always be a little concerned if  
15 some of that waste from out-of-state is displacing  
16 in-state waste at these processing facilities and so  
17 I would ask the Department to weigh that and take a  
18 good look at some of this waste as it's being  
19 processed and whether it's displacing Maine waste. I  
20 think what really caught my eye was the assertion in  
21 the application that we need municipal solid waste to  
22 stabilize sludge. If there has been an increase in  
23 sludge I think the Department would want to know why  
24 if that's part of the basis for this application.

25 So as I say, we actually changed course. We

1 used to control flow by directing where it was going  
2 to go, now we control flow by directing where it's  
3 not going to go and that's the decision you're going  
4 to have to make. Good luck. Thanks.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Switching back to  
6 comments in support. Tracy Flagg.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd like to thank you for  
8 your time. My name is Tracy Flagg. I work for  
9 Casella up to Juniper Ridge. And unfortunately, we  
10 live in an instant gratification world. What is  
11 Juniper Ridge doing to help that? We're bringing  
12 people in to educate them. In the past two years  
13 with open house, field trips and bringing colleges in  
14 and opening up to the public we have educated over  
15 2400 people just in the past two years and we are  
16 going to continue to do that. We encourage students  
17 to come up with creative ideas that will help recycle  
18 and we just want to have you take that into  
19 consideration that we do bring in all of the public  
20 that we can to educate them and teach them how we can  
21 reduce, so thank you for your time.

22 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Todd Brown.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Todd Brown.) I'll pass.

24 MS. MILLER: Brandon Badger.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Brandon Badger.) I'll

1 pass.

2 MS. MILLER: Cody Briggs.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Cody Briggs.) I'll also  
4 pass.

5 MS. MILLER: Austin Smith.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Austin Smith.) I'll pass  
7 too.

8 MS. MILLER: James Katsiaficas.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Jim  
10 Katsiaficas with the law firm of Perkins Thompson.  
11 I'm here speaking for the City of Old Town.

12 The City of Old Town has been an interested  
13 party in the previous Juniper Ridge Landfill permit  
14 application, the amendment proceeding and the public  
15 benefit determination and have also been an  
16 intervenor in the recent expansion proceeding. In  
17 all of these, as the host community, Old Town has  
18 taken the position that it neither opposed or  
19 objected to the application, but wanted to  
20 participate in order to protect the health, safety  
21 and welfare of its residents.

22 However, the City of Old Town, also as a  
23 municipal government, it is responsible under state  
24 law to provide solid waste disposal services for the  
25 domestic and commercial solid waste generated within

1 its borders. So much of the discussion tonight is  
2 centered around the waste that comes from Southern  
3 Maine from the old MRC facility, but the city's  
4 current solid waste disposal agreement with Penobscot  
5 Energy Recovery Corporation, PERC, terminates March  
6 31, 2018 and its new agreement with PERC begins that  
7 next day. On March 31, 187 municipalities and  
8 entities in Northern Maine that currently dispose of  
9 their solid waste through PERC will begin a new era,  
10 some will be disposing of that solid waste through  
11 the Municipal Review Committee/Fiberright facility  
12 we've heard of, others through Ecomaine or Mid-Maine  
13 Waste Action Corporation, and others, like Old Town  
14 will be disposing of their waste through PERC. With  
15 all of these changes, there well may be a need for  
16 disposal capacity for Maine-generated MSW beyond  
17 March 31, 2018 in order to ease these transitions in  
18 Northern Maine, so it's not just for the Southern  
19 Maine trash and solid waste but also for municipal  
20 solid waste generated in the Northern Maine area.

21 Therefore, as it did when BGS and NEWSME  
22 appealed DEP's permit amendment decision in 2014, the  
23 City of Old Town supports this application. There is  
24 a November 20, 2017 letter from City Manager William  
25 Mayo that's part of the application submitted by BGS

1 and NEWSME. Again, the reason for the city's support  
2 is that loss of this MSW disposal capacity in the  
3 existing permitted portion of JRL after March 31,  
4 2018 could have negative impacts on the city's  
5 ability to provide statutorily mandated solid waste  
6 disposal services and also could have negative  
7 impacts on the city's ability to maintain its level  
8 of recycling, again, given -- this is in light of the  
9 imminent changes in solid waste disposal options  
10 available in Northern Maine.

11 I have a copy of the comments from the board  
12 for the members of the commission. Thank you.

13 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Andrew Bennett.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. Good evening.  
15 Thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak here.  
16 My name is Andrew Bennett and I live in Bangor and I  
17 operate the biological hydrogen sulfide removal  
18 system and the gas collection control system up at  
19 the Juniper Ridge Landfill. This system was put in  
20 place to minimize sulfur dioxide pollution.

21 Casella gave me an opportunity come back to  
22 Maine to live and work and with the reductions in  
23 industrial employment in the region it's unlikely  
24 that my family and I could ever move back to the  
25 region without this opportunity. And I'd add that

1 when it comes to attracting the industries of the  
2 future and retaining existing employers it is very  
3 important for us to have a secure and affordable  
4 solid waste disposal solutions. And when people talk  
5 about putting pressure to force us to do other things  
6 with our solid waste, basically what they're talking  
7 about is if there is too much waste and not enough  
8 places to go then we're all bidding against each  
9 other and we're bidding with Southern Maine  
10 communities that have more money than we do and as  
11 other people have expressed it could cause a big  
12 problem.

13           And I'd like to add that I work at JRL every  
14 day and this is not your parents' landfill. It is a  
15 complicated system for securely disposing of solid  
16 waste and removing all of the liquids and gases from  
17 the waste and we don't have anything to hide and the  
18 system is a long-term solution. It's not going to  
19 leak, you know, in 30 years or 50 years, it's  
20 engineered to last indefinitely and keep that waste  
21 completely separated from the environment. There are  
22 systems in place even with underdrain monitoring that  
23 allows us to ensure that those systems are working as  
24 designed and we check that every quarter or monthly  
25 depending on which point we're checking. And all the

1 leachate is treated. It's all regulated by the DEP  
2 and the federal EPA. And I would add that many of my  
3 colleagues live next to the landfill with their  
4 families and have not experienced any significant  
5 nuisance from the landfill. I'm not going to say  
6 there is never any odor, but we make every effort to  
7 minimize the odor and whenever we know about it we're  
8 very proactive about trying to find the source and to  
9 eliminate it. And so I encourage you to approve this  
10 license amendment.

11 Oh, and one more comment. If you want to  
12 know what a landfill looks like in 30 or 50 years, if  
13 you go up to the Bangor forest there is the old  
14 Bangor dump and it's not radioactive and it's clean  
15 and I am not sure when it closed, but it doesn't  
16 create some disastrous long-term issues after the  
17 period where we are obligated to manage it. Well,  
18 actually we're actually obligated to manage it  
19 indefinitely if there is a problem, but assuming  
20 everything goes according to plan after a certain  
21 period of time we no longer have to operate it.  
22 Okay. I guess you folks all know the rules anyways,  
23 so better than I do.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Dana Wardwell.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is

1 Dana Wardwell and I'm the Public Works Director for  
2 the City of Bangor and I speak in support of the  
3 proposed license amendment.

4           The city is a member of the Municipal Review  
5 Committee, so we are one of 115 Maine municipalities  
6 that will deliver our MSW to the Fiberight's facility  
7 in Hampden once it is fully up and running later this  
8 year. And when it does, we expect that this new  
9 level of recycling and processing of MSW in our  
10 region will benefit the state in regards to its solid  
11 waste hierarchy goals. During this transition period  
12 while the Coastal facility is still under  
13 development, an extension of the use of JRL will help  
14 the 115 Maine cities and towns, including Bangor, who  
15 committed to send their MSW to the new recycling and  
16 processing facility.

17           I am respectfully requesting that the  
18 Department approve this amendment application. Thank  
19 you for your time and I do have a copy for you.

20           MS. MILLER: Thank you. Greg Louder.

21           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Regional Director Miller,  
22 DEP staff, good evening. I appreciate the  
23 opportunity to speak this evening. My name is Greg  
24 Louder. I am the Executive Director for the  
25 Municipal Review Committee, a group of 115 Maine

1 municipalities that has made arrangements to  
2 transition our MSW processing system to the  
3 Fiberight/Coastal facility in Hampden.

4 I speak this evening in support of the  
5 amendment application under your consideration. A  
6 number of speakers from MRC communities have provided  
7 testimony earlier for detailed points in support of  
8 the amendment application and there is no use in my  
9 repeating their good work. The first point I want to  
10 make is, as have a number of other interested persons  
11 in this application already made this evening, the  
12 MRC has carefully monitored the regulatory framework  
13 and governing operation of JRL since state ownership  
14 and oversight began back in 2003. The MRC has always  
15 supported a regulatory framework to keep landfilling  
16 of MSW at JRL to practical minimum. On many  
17 occasions the MRC has had concerns in common with  
18 other interested persons on this topic, the topic  
19 being unprocessed MSW and the state-owned landfill.

20 The MRC's core beliefs on MSW landfilling  
21 have held strong since 2003. We believe that MSW  
22 should only be landfilling with JRL in cases where it  
23 serves to support the processing of MSW over the  
24 long-term. We believe that the landfilling of MSW  
25 should follow the state hierarchy. We believe a key

1 function of JRL in support of MSW processing is this  
2 availability to serve as a safety net for any MSW  
3 that cannot be processed for any reason including a  
4 processing facility transition. We believe this  
5 application is consistent with our core beliefs.

6           Finally, considering the current state of  
7 today's integrated solid waste management system it  
8 makes the strongest case to date that approval of an  
9 amendment of this nature is a prudent course of  
10 action. Our 115 towns, their residents and  
11 businesses and their respective solid waste service  
12 providers are down to the wire with regard to a once  
13 in a generation transition from one processing  
14 facility to another. The timely approval of this  
15 amendment application is critical to ensure a  
16 complete and successful transition is carried out and  
17 that the public health and safety risks that  
18 otherwise arise are avoided.

19           Therefore, I'll conclude by respectfully  
20 requesting that the Department approve the amendment  
21 application in a timely manner. Thank you for your  
22 time this evening.

23           MS. MILLER: Thank you. Dan Thornton.

24           AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Dan Thornton.) Thank you  
25 very much for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am

1 in support of the movement to take the deadline off  
2 the restriction of the landfill. Most of my points  
3 that I was planning on talking about have already  
4 been addressed tonight, so I'm going to kind of wing  
5 it up here.

6 I've listened to everybody and I applaud  
7 them for what they've done and what they've  
8 contributed to the waste problem in this state.  
9 However, I think it's going unnoticed of the  
10 successes that this area has taken to deal with, as  
11 our general public, to deal with the waste problem  
12 that we have. The MRC has made tremendous strides in  
13 a very short amount of time to deal with this  
14 problem, so we're headed in the right direction.  
15 We're not asking -- they're not asking for an endless  
16 supply or endless amount of trash disposal. The  
17 people that are up here do have financial ties to the  
18 landfill in one way or another that are here  
19 supporting them, however you're going to see a couple  
20 other -- it's ironic that their competition is up  
21 here as well supporting what needs to happen and I  
22 think that proves that as a whole for this area we're  
23 all in it together. It's not about greed, it's not  
24 about business, it's about a problem and Casella is  
25 providing us a solution.

1           A different part, I applaud Ecomaine for  
2 what they've done. We all follow Portland and what  
3 they're doing and what they're doing together to make  
4 problems -- to give solutions to the problems.  
5 However, I'm from Milford and we're not an  
6 economically rich town and we struggle. So I've  
7 worked with the budget committee in Milford for our  
8 tax base and -- very closely and we're disposing each  
9 resident for a weekly expense is about 50 cents to  
10 get rid of our rubbish. The food program in Portland  
11 is about \$12 a week. My town cannot sustain \$12 a  
12 week. We have 58 percent of our school on a backpack  
13 lunch program that has to send packed lunches home  
14 with our students over the weekend and holidays so  
15 they can eat so they can actually separate that  
16 waste. It's an awful problem, but it's a reality.  
17 We are not Portland and we don't have happy money,  
18 feel good money to give away. We cannot afford it.  
19 And it's very ironic to me that the majority of  
20 people up here tonight speaking in opposition are  
21 pretending that Casella is this big bad animal when  
22 Casella is the company that's sponsoring the backpack  
23 program for Milford. So it's near and dear to me.  
24 It's an important thing to me and it's hard to see  
25 everybody up here so passionate and against the

1 landfill when they're providing a tremendous service  
2 to our area.

3           And my final point is I don't think there is  
4 a person in this room that has spent more time under  
5 water in the Penobscot than I have. I started  
6 swimming it in 1985. This will be my 34th summer  
7 under water in the river. This will be the 34th year  
8 that the river is cleaner and more pristine. If  
9 Juniper Ridge has done anything since they started  
10 working with Old Town they have proved that they are  
11 capable, they are ethical and they are financially  
12 responsible to handle this waste and I hope you take  
13 that into consideration and move forward with this.  
14 Thank you.

15           MS. MILLER: Thank you. Henry Lang.

16           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank you  
17 for the opportunity to address you. My name is Henry  
18 Lang. I am the Plant Manager for the Penobscot  
19 Energy Recovery Company and I would like to come up  
20 and express our support for the Casella amendment. I  
21 certainly can't -- I don't see a point in reiterating  
22 all of the good things that Casella has done and has  
23 been said about Casella. What I think that we see is  
24 a -- the basic problem here is there is a waste  
25 management tool that's on the table and removal of

1 that tool will significantly impact or ability to  
2 manage waste and I appreciate your time. Thank you  
3 very much.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Chris Albert.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Chris Albert.) Well, I  
6 didn't write nothing down. I really wasn't going to  
7 speak, but after hearing some of the opposition I  
8 thought, well, why not. I can give a few facts about  
9 what I've seen in the short time that I've been  
10 employed with Casella at the landfill. One person  
11 said he was speaking for the critters and the birds  
12 and the deer. Any time you drive through that site  
13 you can count upwards of 20 deer any time hanging out  
14 at the landfill without any problem and they're  
15 surviving very well. Birds. We've got birds. Many  
16 birds hanging around our place that don't hang around  
17 Old Town because they like it. They really do. And  
18 you know what, I come from way up at the top of  
19 Maine. I've seen many Bald Eagles. Many. I've only  
20 seen one Golden Eagle ever and it happens to be at  
21 the landfill, you know, and that's -- that's quite a  
22 proud thing. So if the animals are happy with it, I  
23 can't see -- I can tell you what, we've got rodents  
24 that make your skin curl, and you're very welcome,  
25 we'll keep them for you. So --

1 MS. MILLER: Let's address the panel up here  
2 if you don't mind.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Chris Albert.) Oh, yes,  
4 sorry. And as far as -- I consider myself to be very  
5 outdoorsy. I like canoeing, swimming around and  
6 doing a lot of those things and as far as pollution,  
7 pollution can take many forms. Many forms. If I  
8 didn't feel I was safe to work there, I wouldn't work  
9 there. I have a choice. And I do financially feel  
10 that I am, you know, part of it because it puts food  
11 on my table for my children, puts clothes on our  
12 backs, it gives me great benefit packages and I'm  
13 treated, you know, good, so I'm pretty excited and  
14 happy. What Dan Thornton said about what Casella  
15 puts back in the community is just the tip of the  
16 iceberg. I happen to be very fortunate I was a  
17 softball coach for my daughter's team, the ASA, and  
18 also a little league coach. I could not tell you the  
19 tremendous support that Casella gives to these  
20 programs in Old Town. Some of them would not be very  
21 successful if it weren't for Casella and a lot of  
22 these people opposing some of their grandchildren or  
23 children have played for these teams so they also  
24 have benefited in some ways.

25 If you put your canoe into the river and you

1 go down the river you will see multiple black pipes  
2 coming from homes, shed, garages.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's a lie.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Chris Albert.) It might  
5 be, but the black pipes don't lie. They don't lie.  
6 And they're draining something. It's a form of  
7 pollution.

8 MS. MILLER: Let's focus in on -- sorry.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Chris Albert.) It's a  
10 form of pollution either way, you know, so if, you  
11 want, you to stomp on the big fish sometimes you've  
12 got to catch a whole heard of little ones before you  
13 stomp on the big one but, I mean, they're there.  
14 Anybody can see them, they're not hard to find. So,  
15 you know, I think that what Casella has done is  
16 tremendous and I'm happy to be part of their family,  
17 so thank you.

18 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. Kevin Trits.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is  
20 Kevin Trits and I'm with Maine Waste Processing. We  
21 have contracts -- commercial contracts with PERC,  
22 with MRC and Fiberight and with Casella. And first  
23 and foremost, I'm a processor. We process waste and  
24 waste energy faculties. We have organic faculties  
25 around the country and we also do a lot of recycling

1 and it's very important from our perspective as  
2 processors that we have a landfill that's very  
3 integral part of the hierarchy and the integrated  
4 system. That's the first reason that we need  
5 something like that.

6 But to speak to this and to support this I  
7 think there is another reason that we really need to  
8 look at. Going across the country and looking at the  
9 recycling rates, we -- the recycling rate here is  
10 relatively low. And if we look at the amount of  
11 waste that we have, until we increase those recycling  
12 rates, put in organic composting facilities or put in  
13 organic programs to separate that we need places for  
14 solid waste and that's why I would support this  
15 amendment. Thank you.

16 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Irene Belanger.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, ladies. I'm  
18 not a terribly good public speaker, so bear with me,  
19 please. I would like to kind of address more of the  
20 feel good thing about all of this. I represent the  
21 Towns of China and Palermo, Maine. We not too long  
22 ago in Palermo no longer had a place take their  
23 trash. We did a collaboration and they're now  
24 working with us and we do everything through our  
25 transfer station and I do like to talk about trash.

1 I also represent the MRC, the Maine Review  
2 Committee and the Maine Resource Recovery  
3 Association, I'm on both of those boards. As I said,  
4 it's more of the feel good things about this. We  
5 have such a great opportunity with Fiberight/Coastal  
6 coming into the area. With their success not only  
7 are they going to help the State of Maine, but I  
8 believe that this whole process could ultimately help  
9 all of New England and we know how much trash they  
10 have in the states south of us, so I would hope that  
11 you folks could see a way to approve what has been  
12 proposed. Thank you.

13 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Steve, Tim, are  
14 there any more people that have signed in back there?

15 Okay. So I before I go on to any closing  
16 comments I just want to make sure that everyone who  
17 is here who wanted to say something has had an  
18 opportunity to do so. If you'd like to come up and  
19 say something that's fine, I would just, you know,  
20 again, let us know what your name is, who you're  
21 representing, if it's yourself or any other entity,  
22 and let's just try to keep it, you know, to a  
23 minimum. Thank you.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'll be brief. My name is  
25 Jim Braley. I'm a resident of the Town of Alton and

1 I'm just speaking on my own behalf. I know there is  
2 a lot of history through all of this, but my  
3 understanding from this is there is some excess waste  
4 or stranded waste and we need a place for it to go.  
5 And we don't live in utopia, we have trash, we have  
6 things to deal with and by saying no to this it seems  
7 like we've taken a tool, you know, thrown the tool  
8 away that is needed right now. And it seems we as a  
9 society we've been moving forward and we're been  
10 coming up with better ways to deal with this, but for  
11 the time being this seems needed and I haven't -- I  
12 haven't heard of a solution to this stranded waste  
13 and what's going to happen to this. I've heard  
14 people say send it out-of-state, but that seems a  
15 little hypocritical because we're complaining that  
16 it's coming into our state, so that doesn't seem  
17 ethical either. And, you know, to make it more  
18 painful, you know, Mr. Fortin said it very well, but  
19 the people I live around don't have a lot of extra  
20 money, so it's easy to say it's painful but life is  
21 already painful and this just seems like a logical or  
22 a useful tool for the time being. And my  
23 understanding of this is this isn't like for  
24 eternity, this is until the existing landfill is  
25 filled to capacity and closed, so it's not a request

1 for just forever to bring in MSW. So obviously, I  
2 speak in support of it and hope that you approve the  
3 application.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Is there anybody  
5 else who would like to speak or provide comments?

6 Okay. Then I will go ahead and make some  
7 closing remarks. First of all, I want to say thank  
8 you to everybody for coming and thank you for your  
9 input and you all did a great job sticking to the  
10 time limit, so I really appreciate that. I just want  
11 to mention that we will accept and consider all  
12 comments up until the licensing decision is issued.  
13 And although we will accept comments throughout the  
14 licensing process it's preferred if you can that we  
15 get some written comments on the application  
16 beforehand before the application is submitted and if  
17 you could do that within the next week or so say by  
18 like the 9th of March that would really help us in  
19 processing the application. However, to reiterate  
20 comments can be submitted any time up until a  
21 licensing decision is issued.

22 So next steps after this include  
23 consideration of comments, drafting a proposed  
24 licensing decision, availability of the draft license  
25 for comment by both the Department's website and an

1 email notification to interested persons and issuing  
2 of a final licensing decision. And just a reminder  
3 that information pertaining to the JRL application  
4 process can be obtained at the Department's website  
5 or by contacting staff directly and there is contact  
6 information at the bottom of the handout that we  
7 provided at the entranceway. Thank you very much.

8

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(Hearing concluded at 7:58 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Robin J. Dostie, a Court Reporter and  
Notary Public within and for the State of Maine, do  
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and  
accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken by me  
by means of stenograph,

and I have signed:

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Court Reporter/Notary Public

My Commission Expires: February 6, 2019.

DATED: March 16, 2018

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