



132nd Maine Legislature

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Craig Hickman  
Government Oversight Committee  
c/o Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability  
82 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chair Hickman, Chair Mastraccio, and Fellow Committee Members,

We urge the Government Oversight Committee and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to investigate the Juniper Ridge Landfill and the awarding of public contracts to waste management companies.

As you likely know, the Maine Bureau of General Services awarded Casella Waste Services, Inc.'s application for another expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill and extended the contract until 2040. This new contract was renewed with more than six years left on the current contract without being put out to bid. The proposal received a public benefit determination from the Maine DEP, which is currently under appeal.

Among the questions worth considering are:

- How was the decision to expand the site and extend the contract reached?
- Did the Administration look at alternative or additional sites?
- Is it wise to allow one company to gain a monopoly over waste management in our state?
- What impact does this monopoly have on municipalities and tipping fees?
- How is the state doing in our goals to eliminate out-of-state waste?

As we are reviewing procurement matters, this issue should not be overlooked. In fact, we believe that it warrants its own investigation or a central and immediate focus in any continuing investigation of state procurement. The people of Maine deserve answers to the questionable decisions the State has made in regards to Waste Management.

We request that OPEGA be tasked with investigating these matters and report to this Committee and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Richard Bennett in black ink.

Richard Bennett  
Senate District 18

Handwritten signature of Michael Tipping in black ink.

Michael Tipping  
Senate District 8