

Closings and Delays

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Public hearing held regarding Casella contract



By WABI News Desk

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BREWSTER, Maine (WABI) -The Bureau of General Services heard public comment Thursday in Brewer regarding the contract to run the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town.

Casella Waste Systems has managed the landfill for 2 decades and is looking to extend their contract an additional 6 years until 2040.

Environmental organizations, Penobscot Nation representatives, and community members spoke against the extension at the hearing.

Those against it claim Casella mismanages the property causing harm to the environment and are calling for an investigation.

Representatives with Casella argue they have had no violations and have made significant advancements.

Dana Colihan Executive Director of Slingshot said "big Picture we need to be transitioning to a zero-waste system really meaningfully trying to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. We need to be really encouraging recycling and composting across the region." Colihan adds "right now, when we have a private company that is profiting off of waste disposal, that kind of is more seriously in conflict with the attempt to minimize the amount of waste going to the landfill."

The Director of Communications at Casella Jeff Weld said "these things take a lot of time to construct. They take a lot of time to permit to get through all the regulatory agencies and to really implement some of the infrastructure that's necessary to protect the environment. So, that takes a lot of time. It takes a lot of investment on our part and the necessary capacity to offset those costs will happen over that time."

Comments may be submitted to the Bureau in writing up until 5p.m. February 26.

The Bureau will release responses to comments on April 11.

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