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## Are We Getting Buried in Out-of-State Trash? - Nancy Mittleman

Jan 12, 2024

### ***Are We Getting Buried in Out-of-State Trash?***

#### **To the Editor:**

The NH Legislature finally seems to be focusing in on how and why landfills in N. H. are being overrun with out-of-state trash. Also, most welcome is media scrutiny and coverage of the problem. The Jan. 1 Concord Monitor had an excellent article (“Bills target out-of-state trash”) focusing on two bills pending in the N. H. House that would limit the amount of out-of-state trash being trucked into and then landfilled in N. H. Presently, nearly half of all solid waste deposited in N. H. landfills comes from Massachusetts and other New England states. The reason is simple: of all New England states N. H. has by far the most, lax landfill rules.

And, things could get much worse if we don't do something soon. Casella has just recently filed permits to build a new, huge landfill (GSL) in Dalton with the promise of reserving as much as 49% of the landfill capacity for out-of-state waste. Given the large volume of trash GSL will handle, the proportion of out-of-state trash coming into the state is likely to increase from nearly half to more than half. This prospect coupled with both Gov. Sununu's enthusiastic support of Casella and its GSL proposal, and the N. H.'s Department of Environmental Services apparent push to fast-track approval of the GSL permits makes it doubly important for the N. H. Legislature to come up with solutions to the problem of out-of-state solid waste soon. Furthermore, these developments make it triply important for the Caladonian and, in fact, all of N. H.'s media to focus on this problem and bring it to the forefront for consideration by N. H. residents and all those who enjoy our beautiful state.

Thank you,

Nancy Mittleman

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