



April 14, 2021

New Hampshire State Senate
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB177, prohibiting the siting of a landfill near a state park.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB177. NH LAKES supports the passage of HB177, prohibiting the siting of a landfill near a state park. Landfills pose a significant threat to surface and ground water quality, threatening to undermine some of the core purposes of public lands protection and conservation.

NH LAKES is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to keeping New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy, and advocates for laws, public policies and other programs designed to achieve this mission. We work with partners, promote clean water policies and responsible use, and inspire the public to care for our lakes. We base our work in science – watershed hydrology included – and on the premise that no lake is an island. Lake water comes not only from rainfall and snowmelt, but also from overland flow, through the ground, and by way of streams and other lake tributaries. Siting landfills within the drainage area of any lake raises the threat to lake water quality and can negatively impact the long-term health of that waterbody.

HB177 is a good faith effort to ensure that new landfills are not sited in close proximity to our public lands, thereby supporting the investments New Hampshire has made in these important natural, recreational, cultural, and economically-important areas. Permitting landfills near state parks would damage surface and groundwater, negatively impact the state's vital outdoor recreation and tourism industries, and discourage locals from recreating at the park and lake.

We urge the Senate to “Ought to Pass” on HB 177, making it illegal to create new landfills within two miles of our state parks.

Respectfully,

Michelle Davis, Advocacy Program Coordinator
NH LAKES

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