

January 26, 2025

Chair Aron and House E&A Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my input in **SUPPORT of HR13**, *“A RESOLUTION opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire”*.

I urge you to lend your voice to ours by **SUPPORTING** House Resolution 13 as **OTP**. As you have seen over the past six years, there is overwhelming opposition throughout the State of New Hampshire, and beyond, to this unwanted, unneeded, and dangerously-sited landfill development project, intended to be the home for Casella’s waste collection routes in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

As detailed within HR13, our pristine environment and abundant natural resources are key economic drivers for the state economy, focused primarily around tourism and outdoor recreation. This senseless landfill development poses a significant threat to that which makes New Hampshire and the North Country such a unique and special place in which to live, visit, and recreate.

I have attached to this testimony a 2-page information sheet, detailing the impacts this landfill development will have on the environment, tourism, safety, and quality of life throughout the North Country.

I hope all of this information will help the Committee to come to the logical conclusion that opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, NH is the right thing to do for the New Hampshire House of Representatives, the “People’s House”

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Swan".

Jon Swan  
Dalton, NH  
603-991-2078

\*In order to not get sued a third time by Casella, I need you to understand that all of this is my opinion, based on my research and experience.

## Forest Lake State Park GSL Landfill Info Sheet 2024

**Here's what we know about the Casella-proposed GSL landfill development, next to Forest Lake, as well as the impacts it will have on the environment, tourism, safety, & quality of life throughout the North Country:**

- To get a “foot in the door”, Casella Waste Systems of Vermont has submitted 9 permit applications for a “Concept 5” revision of their Granite State Landfill development project in Dalton and Bethlehem, reduced to a 1-phase, 70-acre, 18-year landfill, for now
- Permitted capacity sought has remained the same at 600,000 cubic yards per year. That is 2.5 TIMES what Casella’s NCES Landfill in Bethlehem is permitted for annual capacity of 230,200 cubic yards
- Up to 60% of the waste intake at GSL could come from out-of-state (MA & CT). Approximately 99% of that waste will be trucked in from out of state and south of the Notch
- At NCES annual waste intake levels, GSL’s initial permitted capacity lifespan would be 46 years
- Casella initially sought a 238-acre landfill (4 TIMES the size of NCES), with 67 million cubic yards of permitted capacity in their “Concept 1”, equaling 53.6 MILLION TONS of trash. With future expansions, “Concept 1” could eventually become a reality, equating to a permitted lifespan of 111 years. Casella has 1889 acres of land under contract with the selling landowner
- This would also be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Casella-owned commercial landfill in the North Country and could be a future destination for waste from other Casella landfills in VT, ME, and NY when they close
- Over 10 MILLION GALLONS of toxic, PFAS-laden leachate will eventually be produced annually, requiring it be trucked hundreds of miles for disposal at a wastewater treatment plant (if they will accept it due to its toxicity)
- 148 acres of forested, wildlife habitat will be clear-cut, which is the equivalent of 112 football fields. The 70-acre lined landfill is the equivalent of 53 football fields
- 11.5 acres of wetlands will be destroyed, and add 25.5 acres of impervious surfaces, for now, all of which will adversely impact the Ammonoosuc River.
- Up to 42.8 acres of wetlands could ultimately be destroyed through future expansions
- At least 5 vernal pools (temporary bodies of water and breeding grounds for the wood frog and spotted salamander) will be destroyed at the proposed site (that we know of!)
- The destruction of these natural habitats will have a far-reaching negative impact on the surrounding fauna, wildlife, and the important wetland functions of the Alder/Hatch Brook catchment basin that feeds into the Ammonoosuc River, including important flood-control loss
- The proposed site could potentially be a habitat to the Federally-endangered Northern Long-Eared Bat and the State-endangered Eastern Small-Footed Bat
- Scavenger birds would pose a threat to the existing Loon population
- An increase in litter, noise, rodents, flies, and bears
- Ground and surface water contamination, as well as atmospheric deposition of toxic pollutants, including PFAS, dust, and storm water runoff from landfill emissions, dirty tractor trailers, and increased truck traffic, all of have the potential to negatively impact the water quality of Forest Lake, Burns Pond, the Alder/Hatch/Bog Brook watersheds, the Ammonoosuc River, the Johns River, and the Connecticut River, as well as the private wells of hundreds of residences in the impact zones
- Groundwater reports from Casella’s NCES Landfill in Bethlehem reveal extensive PFAS contamination within the watershed of the Ammonoosuc River at that facility
- Fecal contamination from landfill scavenger birds could have a drastic impact on the water quality of at least 3 EPA-identified “impaired waters”; Forest Lake, Burns Pond, and the Ammonoosuc River. This introduction of additional amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous would

likely lead to an extensive increase in algal blooms and cyanobacteria, which can be harmful to both humans and pets

- Private wells in the vicinity of the proposed landfill, as well as Forest Lake, Alder Brook, and 21 groundwater monitoring wells at the proposed landfill site, have all been tested for PFAS with ZERO detections. *"Forest Lake's water is tested annually with NHDES is extraordinarily clean, and it is free of PFAS. We want to keep it that way."*-Fred Anderson, President, Forest Lake Association
- Air pollution from harmful landfill emissions, unpleasant odors, and heavy-equipment noise, all of which would carry for miles (Forest Lake State Park beach is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away)
- Forest Lake is just 2700 feet from the proposed landfill site and lies E/SE, the direction of prevailing wind patterns. The border of the Forest Lake State Park forest is a mere 190 feet away.
- There are approximately 84 residences along Forest Lake Road (farthest being 1.49 miles on Forest Lake Rd and 1.13 miles on the water on Newell) and 52 residences along W. Forest Lake Road (1.21/1.44 miles to WFL/RT116 and farthest waterfront being .98 miles) that will be most directly impacted by the nuisances and health hazards posed by a neighboring, upwind landfill
- Residences along Manns Hill Rd in Littleton will overlook the landfill from only 1.5 miles away
- A negative impact on North Country property values
- A negative impact on the tourism industry of the North Country, the Littleton River District, and the profitability of businesses that rely on tourism and outdoor recreation dollars
- The North Country will be inundated with approximately 200+/- trash truck trips daily, Monday-Saturday, traveling through the Towns of Whitefield, Carroll/Twin Mountain, Bethlehem, and Littleton, past approximately 375 residences and 3 elementary schools, as well as numerous businesses, campgrounds, and motor inns along Routes 3, 116, and 302, on primarily already-dangerous country roads, posing a significant threat to the safety of commuters, pedestrians, and tourists, as well as flooding the North Country with out-of-state waste. This does not include additional RNG truck traffic from the proposed landfill gas to energy plant, which is also being proposed at the GSL site, along with the current property owner's development plans
- Operational hours will be 6:00AM to 6:00PM Monday-Friday, AND Saturdays from 7:00AM-4:00PM, disturbing homeowners nearby and along the proposed non-interstate 26-mile route
- The average distance for hauling waste to the proposed GSL site would be approximately 123 miles, emitting greenhouse gasses, a key contributor to climate change and global warming
- Up to 24 trucks could be staged in an early-morning, and daily, on-site queuing area, awaiting entrance while spewing harmful diesel gas emissions, along with noise and runoff pollution
- The Conservation Commissions of the Towns of Dalton, Littleton, Whitefield, Bethlehem, and Sugar Hill, along with the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee, Grafton and Coos County Commissioners, NH Lakes, Sierra Club of NH, New Hampshire Forest Society, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, and the Conservation Law Foundation, have ALL weighed in against this unwanted, unneeded landfill development, due to its negative environmental impacts which will be suffered on a regional level in the beautiful North Country of New Hampshire, a vacation destination for sightseers and outdoor enthusiasts from across the world

**Casella has NOT sought ANY local approvals  
for this unwanted and dangerous landfill project!**

We do not need a new commercial landfill in NH for out-of-state trash!  
The AVRDD Mt. Carberry Landfill in Success, NH has plenty of EXISTING capacity for North  
Country waste for decades!

Join the fight to protect and preserve our environment and natural resources:

[www.SaveForestLake.com](http://www.SaveForestLake.com)