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## Ayotte to Casella: No way

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In her inaugural address, New Hampshire Governor Ayotte doubled-down on her pledge to halt Casella's proposed Granite State Landfill in New Hampshire's North Country.

This is a big problem for Casella — it has been on a binge for several years buying up trash collection service territories all over the Northeast, without giving much thought to where all of that trash is going to go. As of Jan. 9, Casella knows one thing for sure — it's not going to New Hampshire.

Casella shareholders should take note, Casella management is to blame. It thought it had a good friend in outgoing Governor Sununu and could bully its way (before Governor Sununu left office) to getting the permits it needs to build a giant new landfill in New Hampshire. This, despite the fact New Hampshire does not need any additional landfill capacity, and despite the fact the site Casella picked is effectively in the middle of a sand and gravel pit, which scientists will tell you is just about the most risky place to put a landfill.

The GSL site is so bad that, if the GSL site were in Vermont, or Maine, or some 20 other states instead of New Hampshire, environmental regulators in those states would have laughed Casella out of the building.

Casella shareholders should also take note Casella management is not very good at managing the landfills they already operate. Casella's Coventry landfill in Vermont has been beset with operating problems for years. And Casella's existing NCES landfill in New Hampshire has been cited for hundreds of leachate management failures, including a 150,000-plus gallon leachate spill still under investigation.

Casella clearly could benefit from new management, and more oversight from adults, including its board of directors and its shareholders. Let's hope.

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