



Town of Bethlehem

2155 Main Street PO Box 189
Bethlehem, NH 03574
(603) 869-3351 Fax (603) 869-2280
www.bethlehemnh.org

October 20, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte

Governor of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable David Rochefort

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

Re: Support for Moratorium on Landfill Permits and Protection of Local Control

Dear Governor Ayotte and Senator Rochefort,

On behalf of the Bethlehem Select Board, we write to formally express our strong support for Governor Ayotte's proposed moratorium on the issuance of new landfill permits in New Hampshire until several critical statewide issues are thoroughly addressed.

As a community with firsthand experience managing the long-term impacts of solid waste facilities, we recognize the gravity and complexity of landfill siting and oversight. We believe a pause is both prudent and necessary to ensure public health, environmental protection, and fiscal responsibility for future generations. We respectfully urge action on the following key concerns during the moratorium period:

1. Creation of a Site Evaluation Committee:

We support the establishment of a multidisciplinary Site Evaluation Committee to provide a more comprehensive, transparent, and accountable review process for landfill proposals. Such a body would help ensure that environmental, hydrological, geological, and community impacts are rigorously considered before any permit decisions are granted.

2. Assessment of Future PFAS Remediation Costs:

Municipalities across New Hampshire are already facing mounting concerns related to PFAS contamination. It is essential that the state determine how future remediation costs will be managed and funded before allowing additional landfill capacity. Without proactive planning, these burdens will inevitably fall upon local taxpayers.

3. Limits on Out-of-State Waste:

New Hampshire must examine and clearly establish limits on the volume of out-of-state waste being disposed of within our borders. Our state should not become a regional dumping ground at the expense of our natural resources and rural communities.

Furthermore, the Bethlehem Select Board **adamantly opposes any proposal that would remove or diminish local control** from municipal land use boards. Local boards—Planning, Zoning, Conservation, and Select Boards—are best positioned to understand the unique environmental, economic, and social impacts landfill facilities have on their communities. Preserving local authority is foundational to New Hampshire’s long-standing tradition of self-governance and community stewardship.

We appreciate the Governor’s leadership in bringing attention to these pressing issues and Senator Rochefort’s continued advocacy for responsible environmental policy. Bethlehem stands ready to participate in future legislative and regulatory efforts to modernize and strengthen New Hampshire’s waste management framework.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to protecting New Hampshire’s communities and natural resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethlehem Select Board

Nancy Strand

Nancy Strand (Oct 27, 2025 08:28:06 EDT)

Nancy Strand, Chair

Michael Bruno

Michael Bruno (Oct 23, 2025 09:26:21 EDT)

Michael Bruno, Selectman

Casey MacDonald

Casey MacDonald (Oct 23, 2025 12:26:12 EDT)

Casey MacDonald, Selectman

April Hibberd

April Hibberd (Oct 23, 2025 13:25:39 EDT)

April Hibberd, Vice-Chair

Andrea Knowles

Andrea Knowles (Oct 23, 2025 18:34:53 EDT)

Andrea Knowles, Selectwoman