



Native Fish Coalition

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To whom it may concern,

We are writing on behalf of the New Hampshire chapter of Native Fish Coalition to express our opposition to the construction of a proposed landfill located near Douglas Drive in Dalton/Bethlehem, outlined in the Wetlands Permit Application 2020-02239. The proposed landfill will directly affect 17 acres of wetlands that serve a critical role in the health of the surrounding ecosystem. The project will also threaten 160 acres of existing forest. Together, these forests and wetland areas serve as an important natural buffer for runoff and pollution.

If allowed to proceed, toxic landfill leachate could also threaten additional surrounding wetlands and several small tributaries – including Alder, Hatch and Bog Brook watersheds – that feed nearby Forest Lake and the Ammonoosuc River. These riparian zones are critical to the well-being of the native fish and wildlife that call them home. The Ammonoosuc River is classified by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as a "high quality fishery" for both cold and warm water species. The river and multiple tributaries are suitable for wild, self-sustaining populations of native brook trout. Additional pollution in these waters could degrade water quality, lead to harmful algae blooms and threaten the health of these wild, native fish.

As stewards of the state, we owe it to our citizens and future generations to protect our high-value lands and waters from intrusions such as landfills, especially when they're adjacent to our state parks. We must also protect the native fish and wildlife that call these areas home. This landfill could put these fragile areas at risk. We urge the NH Department of Environmental Services, Water Division to reject the proposed Wetlands Permit Application 2020-02239.

Respectfully,

New Hampshire Chapter, Native Fish Coalition