



**THE GENERAL COURT  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
Concord, NH 03301

February 10, 2022

Victoria F. Sheehan, Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0483

James McMahon III, P.E., Assistant District Engineer  
NHDOT District 1 - Northern Region  
641 Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584

Re: NHDOT Driveway **Permit Request #14656**

Commissioner Sheehan and Mr. McMahon:

As elected state officials representing the North Country, we wish to state our opposition to the potential approval by your department of Driveway Permit Request #14656, for the proposed Granite State Landfill Development project located at Douglas Drive and Route 116 in the Town of Bethlehem. Considering that the driveway permit application represents an influx of upwards of 100 heavy duty, trash haulers of a variety of sizes per day each way, including approximately 50 or so of the large, WB-67 style interstate tractor-trailers and due to the overwhelming opposition from our constituents to this proposed routing of vehicular traffic, primarily thru the town centers of Bethlehem, Carroll, and Whitefield, we respectfully request that you deny the driveway permit application submitted to your department by the developer, Casella Waste Systems.

Many of our constituents, including town officials, have raised health and safety concerns about this significant influx of large, heavy-duty vehicles to an already-dangerous and well-traveled stretch of Route 116, most particularly between Littleton and Whitefield, as well as the threat such traffic poses to pedestrians and school children in the towns of Bethlehem, Whitefield, and Littleton. Additionally, the influx of large, heavy-duty vehicles will impact NH tourism as the trucks exit Interstate 93 in Franconia Notch State Park to access Rte.3 heading towards Carroll.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that the property site, accessed by Douglas Drive, could potentially be the future home of a 500-spectator drag strip, a 500-site campground, and a business industrial park. It would be inappropriate, in our estimation, for NHDOT to approve a driveway permit at this location without taking into consideration the well-publicized, planned future intentions of both the developer, Casella Waste Systems, and the current owner, Mr. Douglas Ingerson, as he will retain ownership of a significant portion of the property and/or driveway.

Finally, as reported in the news recently, Governor Sununu and Department of Business and Economic Affairs Commissioner, Taylor Caswell announced that the State of New Hampshire, including the White Mountains and Great North Woods, just enjoyed a record-breaking summer tourism season. The economic engine that the tourism and outdoor recreation industries both represent to our local communities would be significantly threatened by an industrial development of this size and scope, at this central location in the heart of the scenic and tranquil North Country.

As stewards of our great state, we believe that responsible development is required in order to protect and preserve our environment and the natural resources which make our state such a unique place to live and visit. In summary, because the proposed driveway permit poses such a significant threat to the health, safety, and well-being of our constituents and visitors, along with the long-term, negative impacts it would have on our North Country economy, environment and quality of life, we respectfully request that Driveway **Permit Request #14656** for Douglas Drive be denied.

Sincerely,

Senator Erin Hennessey, District 1

Representative Tim Egan, Grafton - District 2

Representative Troy Merner, Coos - District 7

Representative Linda Massimilla, Grafton - District 1

Representative Edith Tucker, Coos - District 5