

House Environment and Agriculture Committee  
NH Sierra Club Testimony on HB177

I am Jerry Curran, NH Sierra Club Chapter Chair and I live in Conway. The NH Sierra Club has over 20,000 members and supporters in New Hampshire. I ask the Environment and Agriculture Committee to support and pass HB177.

The NH Sierra Club strongly supports HB177. In talking with many of our supporters we have found unprecedented support for HB177. In fact, we have not heard a single dissenting voice. Like all states, New Hampshire has a trash problem, but it is not dire enough that we need to make every acre in the State available for landfills. We have enough room to landfill trash and still leave a buffer around State Parks.

Increasing recycling from it's present 25%, reducing excess packaging, a robust compost program, not allowing other states to dump in New Hampshire and reducing single use plastic would go a long way to decreasing our need for landfill space. New Hampshire's wild places during the pandemic have become more necessary and popular than ever. Our future is in tourism not trash. We can't have both.

The final size of a landfill project is often larger than what was originally proposed. The landfill in Bethlehem was not nearly as visible until the last expansion which added earth berms to raise the trash level to a much more visible height. In the case for the Forest Lake State Park, the final landfill could look very different from what is being proposed now. The ability of landfills to continue to expand beyond what is initially permitted should be a consideration of why a buffer around State Parks is essential.

The New Hampshire State Parks are an American jewel. They are bucket list places for people from all over the world. The responsibility for the stewardship of these treasures should not be taken lightly. As New Hampshire citizens, legislators or advocates we should do everything we can to protect these beautiful places. Please pass HB177.

Jerry Curran  
NH Sierra Club  
Chapter Chair