

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 30, 2024

Frank J. DelGiudice Regulatory Division US Army Corps of Engineers New England District 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751

Via email: <u>CENAE-R-PN-NH@usace.army.mil;</u> frank.j.delgiudice@usace.army.mil; lindsey.e.lefebvre@usace.army.mil

RE: Granite State Landfill Permit Application, File No. NAE-2021-02240: **REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND FOR A PUBLIC HEARING**

Dear Mr. DelGiudice,

I write today on behalf of my constituents in Grafton-1 and surrounding communities. We are deeply concerned about the proposed Granite State Landfill, LLC's (GSL) project in Dalton, New Hampshire, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on File No. NAE-2021-02240.

We urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to extend the comment period by at least 30 days and to conduct a public hearing in the Dalton area due to the controversial nature of the project and its significant impact on various communities and ecosystems.

I. Extension of Comment Period Pursuant to 33 CFR § 325.2(d)(2):

Given the unprecedented scale and scope of GSL's landfill proposal, along with its substantial permanent impacts on wetlands and streams, an extended comment period is imperative. The proposed landfill's size, encompassing a 70-acre footprint with permanent impacts to over 10 acres of wetlands and 1,518 linear feet of streams, distinguishes it as uniquely detrimental to New Hampshire's environment. Furthermore, its proximity to Forest Lake State Park raises concerns about pollution, noise, and the integrity of the surrounding area. The recent leachate spill from a nearby landfill operated by GSL's parent company underscores the potential environmental risks associated with this project.

Public interest and controversy surrounding GSL's proposal have been extensive and well documented, with significant opposition voiced by both the public and the New Hampshire legislature. Given this level of concern and the widespread implications for public health and the environment, an extended comment period is necessary to accommodate thorough public input and evaluation.

II. Public Hearing Pursuant to 33 CFR § 327.4(b):

We also request that a public hearing be held at the White Mountains Regional High School due to its ability to comfortably accommodate a meeting. This will facilitate meaningful public participation and ensure the Army Corps considers all relevant information in its evaluation. The size and scope of GSL's

proposal, coupled with its significant environmental impacts and public interest, warrant such a hearing. Previous hearings have drawn considerable attendance, highlighting the community's desire for active involvement in this process.

In conclusion, we urge the Army Corps to extend the comment period and hold a public hearing to ensure thorough consideration of the concerns and perspectives of all stakeholders. The North Country should get a fair opportunity to weigh in on the project, and they need more time to submit comments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Representative David Rochefort Grafton-1

Cc: NH DES; NH DOT; Rep. Sean Durkin; Rep. Jim Tierney; Rep. Seth King; Rep. Linda Massimilla; Rep. Matthew Simon; Rep. Jared Sullivan