



Town of Bethlehem

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

Bethlehem Select Board
Town of Bethlehem, New Hampshire
2155 Main Street
admin@bethlehemnh.gov
6/9/2025

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Ayotte,

On behalf of the Town of Bethlehem, we are writing to respectfully request that you publicly denounce the recent amendment to HB 2 introduced on Monday by Senator Pearl, which seeks to remove local control over the siting of major landfills, citing a preference for expansions on land adjacent to already existing and permitted landfills.

This amendment poses a serious threat to municipal self-governance and to the environmental integrity of our region. Bethlehem residents have long demonstrated a clear and consistent stance against landfill expansion. Over the past two decades, our citizens have voted repeatedly against landfill expansion projects. These votes reflect deep community concern about the long-term environmental and economic consequences of landfill development in our town.

The current landfill, located in close proximity to the Ammonoosuc River and a major aquifer, has been a source of significant division in our community. The facility's environmental footprint, its location near critical water resources, and the broader impacts on property values and public health have caused ongoing anxiety among residents. The people of Bethlehem, like many throughout the North Country, want thoughtful, locally-informed land use decisions—not sweeping state-level interventions that ignore decades of local planning and public input.

Simply put, this amendment does not reflect the will of our community or of the North Country more broadly. It undermines democratic decision-making statewide and opens the door to long-term harm to one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the state.

We urge you to speak out publicly against this amendment and to defend the rights of municipalities to make decisions about major projects that will affect their land, their water, and their future. We stand ready to work with your administration to ensure that local voices remain central to New Hampshire's environmental policy.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully,

The Bethlehem Select Board

Nancy Strand
Nancy Strand (Jun 9, 2025 19:50 EDT)

Nancy Strand, Chair

April Hibberd
April Hibberd (Jun 9, 2025 08:53 EDT)

April Hibberd, Vice-Chair

Michael Bruno
Michael Bruno (Jun 9, 2025 10:01 EDT)

Michael Bruno

Andrea Knowles
Andrea Knowles (Jun 9, 2025 10:32 EDT)

Andrea Knowles

Casey MacDonald
Casey MacDonald (Jun 9, 2025 15:51 EDT)

Casey MacDonald