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The State Wants to Usurp Local Control - Andrea Bryant

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The State Wants to Usurp Local Control

To the Editor:

It's the ninth inning of SB2 Budget Bill and state Sen. Howard Pearl R-Loudon introduced an amendment that would strip away local control over landfill siting by invalidating Zoning Laws as well as legal agreements. It also expresses a preference for expansion on existing landfills. That would leave the six towns (Nashua, Lebanon, Conway, Bethlehem, Rochester, and Sucess) with landfills in them to be literally dumped on forever.



This could just be the start of the State stripping away local control everywhere. What might be next casinos, race tracks, incinerators, airport, just think of your worse nightmare in your town, they might decide you are powerless to prohibit it

NCES landfill has created upheaval in Bethlehem for about 35. Bethlehem has spent over a million dollars in legal fees over NCES. The town has voted 17 times to prohibit expansion. The only time there was a vote to allow 10 more acres was in 2012 when Casella signed a settlement agreement that included they would not expand further. The agreement also outlined the financial benefits to the

town. The State Legislature should protect towns and its residents. It would be so unjust for the State to just diminish our efforts to protect the health and welfare of the residents and environment.

I live in Bethlehem about a mile from the NCES landfill, I know the negative impacts. I do not open my windows in the summer because in the past too often the stench from the landfill would penetrate my home. There have been many times when the putrid odors have driven me inside from working in my wooded yard. The noise has woken me and disturbs my peace and quiet.



There are well documented facts about the leachate spills, leaking liners, and poisons in test wells. There is a seep that flows directly into the Ammonoosuc River. Governor Ayotte said in reference to developing a new landfill in Dalton that we should not make the North Country a dumping ground. NCES is only 6 miles upstream, a sensitive site and there should never have been one built there to begin with. It is just yards from the protected Ammonoosuc River. It sits on a stratified drift aquifer. (that NHDES denied was there when it started.) It borders the National Forest. The monstrosity can be seen from homes and mountain tops all around. Very sad.

This amendment that has nothing to do with the Budget and to me it sounds like it was written by Casella is a slap in the face to those of us who have already been working for many years to stop further contamination of our watershed. We have more than our share of garbage in our town.

I hope your readers will write Governor Ayotte and their House Representatives and tell them to trash the Pearl Amendment.

Thank you

Andrea Bryant

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