

Be Forewarned: Casella Waste Systems

Save Forest Lake <saveforestlake@yahoo.com> Sat, Feb 11, 2023 at 12:17 PM To: "townofthurston@stny.rr.com" <townofthurston@stny.rr.com>, "michael.volino1@gmail.com" <michael.volino1@gmail.com>, "ppk1357@hotmail.com" <ppk1357@hotmail.com>, "hchase2009@gmail.com" <hchase2009@gmail.com>, "noelasylvester@gmail.com" <noelasylvester@gmail.com> Cc: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation <nysdec@public.govdelivery.com>, "palmesanop@nyassembly.gov" <palmesanop@nyassembly.gov>

Good Afternoon Town of Thurston Board Members:

I have followed the news stories about Casella Waste Systems and its lease/purchase of the Dickson properties. I have attached a compilation of Casella's long and sordid history of fines, violations, and lawsuits. I live in tiny, poor, rural Dalton, New Hampshire and our town has been under siege for nearly 4 years now, as Casella appeared in our town unannounced, as they did yours. They need a new landfill in New Hampshire to replace their NCES Landfill in neighboring Bethlehem, with the intent of bringing even more out-of-state trash into Northern NH, primarily from MA and potentially CT, since that state is now exporting all waste. As Maine has banned the land application of sludge/biosolids, it only makes sense to surmise that your town is likely to be the final resting spot for much of New England's/Casella sludge and biosolids. That means more truck traffic as well. Look to their operations and expansions in your own state, particularly the Hyland Landfill in Angelica, NY. I can only imagine what Casella could do with 2789 acres of land, as a potential landfill site would certainly be within reason. This company is all about growth, so please, keep all of this in mind during their "presentation" before your board on February 15. I would also highly recommend videotaping the presentation as well (I'd LOVE to see a copy!).

I used to live in Upstate NY and know the beauty of the Finger Lakes Region. As representatives for your town, I would urge you to do all that you can to prevent Casella from gaining a foothold there. You will never be rid of them and you will find yourselves embroiled in controversy and potentially costly lawsuits. Better to expend your energy and dollars fighting them now, as opposed to in the future when they are in. Google Casella in Bethlehem, Southbridge, MA, Coventry, VT, their efforts to fight the sludge ban in Maine, and of course, our current fight in Dalton. They are truly a very bad company and will say and do whatever they need to in order to get a foot in the door. Good luck.

Thank You!

Jon Swan 25 Cashman Rd Dalton, NH 03598 (603) 991-2078 Founder, <u>Save Forest Lake</u>

Do not allow this proposed development to scar the beautiful landscape of the North Country for generations to come

Together, WE can protect and preserve our wonderful New Hampshire environment and natural resources from further exploitation, degradation, and contamination by corporate profiteers!

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." -The Lorax

5 attachments
Casella Fines-Violations 2022 Updated 10 21 2022.pdf 815K
Casella Fines-Violations 2021 updated.xlsx 36K
Anxious That Casella Recently Took control of 2789 Acres Thurston Jan 24 2023.pdf 2332K
Casella officials watch in silence as Thurston Town Board warms to idea of banning sewage sludge permits Fingerlakes1.com Feb 6 2023.pdf 315K
Casella poised to spread sewage sludge over hundreds of acres in Steuben County _ Fingerlakes1.com Nov 10 2022.pdf 2459K