



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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January 27, 2020

The Honorable Amanda Gourgue
and the Environment and Agriculture Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 1319 prohibiting the siting of new landfills or expansions of existing landfills near state parks, national parks, or United States Department of Agriculture forest land.

Dear Chair Gourgue and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1319, prohibiting the siting of new landfills or expansions of existing landfills near state parks, national parks, or United States Department of Agriculture forest land. **The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation (the Division) does not take a position on this bill, but we wish to provide you with the following information.**

This bill is likely related to the proposal by Casella Waste Systems to establish a landfill in the Town of Dalton, abutting Forest Lake State Park. As an abutter to the proposed landfill, the Division would actively participate in the process established by the Department of Environmental Services to review the proposed project to ensure the project does not have an adverse impact on present and future use of the Park. We have concerns regarding the impact of noise, odors, and pest animals (seagulls) on our visitors today at the beach and our visitors in the future with the addition of a campground in another portion property, particularly if it the campground is closer to the landfill. We would also seek confirmation in the process that there would be no traffic impacts on visitors to the Park or impacts on the quality of water in Forest Lake.

We understand that this is a complex issue. For example, we have to dispose of 173 tons of trash a year generated by our visitors to Hampton Beach State Park. However, we understand it is the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to review landfill projects and uphold the environmental protections on behalf of the state. If approved, we would expect our concerns to be fully addressed in the conditions of any permit.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Bryce, Director

C: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner
PAB/ttl-022620