



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

June 24, 2022

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 1454

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on June 24, 2022, I have vetoed House Bill 1454, relative to permits for the siting of new landfills.

I agree with the experts at the Department of Environmental Services (DES) that this bill would have been better suited as a study. It is extremely likely this bill would curtail landfill development in the state and lead to New Hampshire's waste to be transported out of state, creating higher costs and property taxes for our citizens.

New Hampshire's landfill regulations are already rigorous and robust. According to the DES, there is no data indicating that the lined landfills currently operating and adhering to our regulations in the state are adversely affecting our state's waterways. Therefore, while the intent of this bill is good, it is ultimately a solution in search of a problem. The requirements in HB 1454 would have likely prevented construction of some of the seven lined landfills operating in the state.

Acknowledging the desire to strengthen the state's requirements, I signed a reasonable bill (SB 396) earlier this year enabling the DES to require a landfill applicant to hire an independent engineer or hydrogeologist to ensure their proposed landfill meets our permitting requirements. I am open to further changes to our landfill requirements, but these changes must be based on data. Now is not the time to raise additional fees and taxes on our citizens as a result of asking other states to manage our trash.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 1454.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clitch T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor