



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Amanda Gourgue
Chair, House Environment & Agriculture Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1702, An Act establishing a working group on solid waste management planning

Dear Chair Gourgue and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1702. This bill would establish a stakeholder workgroup for a period of three years to assist the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) with planning and policy initiatives related to solid waste management. NHDES supports this bill.

As members of the Committee are likely aware, the Recycling & Solid Waste Management Study Committee (HB 617, Chapter 265, 2019) identified a multitude of solid waste management issues in New Hampshire that deserve attention, including the need for the State to take a more proactive role in long-range solid waste management planning. Pursuant to RSA 149-M, NHDES is responsible for solid waste planning and is required to periodically update the State's Solid Waste Management Plan. However, due in part to resource deficiencies over the last two decades, the Department has been challenged to fulfill this and a number of other duties. NHDES notes that this bill would not address the Department's need for additional resources to accomplish its various solid waste management responsibilities. However, NHDES believes the workgroup established by this bill could play an important role in aiding and advising the Department as it prepares an updated Solid Waste Management Plan and develops policies and goals to address the State's solid waste management challenges.

Other state environmental agencies commonly engage with solid waste advisory groups to help guide policy development and identify priorities for action. The HB 617 findings of the Recycling & Solid Waste Management Study Committee made it abundantly clear that New Hampshire is falling behind with regard to general waste management planning and policy. While NHDES does not believe a stakeholder workgroup by itself would be a panacea, establishing such a group would certainly be an important piece in helping the State to address these issues.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1702. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Michael Nork, Solid Waste

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Management Bureau (michael.nork@des.nh.gov, 271-2936) or Michael Wimsatt, Waste
Management Division Director (michael.wimsatt@des.nh.gov, 271-1997).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1702: Representatives Ebel, O'Connor, M. Murray, Sykes, Porter, Ford, Martin,
Hennessey, Merner, Moffet; Senators Watters, Bradley, Dietsch