



Healthy environment.
Healthy economy.

HB 215

January 21, 2025

Dear Chair Aron, and Honorable Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Tom Tower and I am speaking here today on behalf of The North Country Alliance For Balanced Change (NCABC) in support of **HB 215-FN**

HB 215-FN introduces essential requirements for a holistic evaluation of proposed landfill projects, including a comprehensive report detailing the potential harms and benefits of such projects. Landfill projects, while sometimes necessary, pose inherent risks to human health and environmental quality and his legislation represents a significant improvement over the current system by mandating an independent, third-party assessment of impacts on human health, property values, and the environment.

The bill's shift from demonstrating "substantial public benefit" to proving a "net public benefit" reflects a more nuanced and responsible standard for evaluating landfill permits. By focusing solely on the merits and impacts of the proposed project, this legislation prevents applicants from using unrelated projects to obscure potential harms.

Landfill capacity is a prudent measure to prevent unnecessary or premature expansions. By requiring a demonstrated capacity shortfall for at least half of the permit's term, HB 215-FN ensures that new or expanded landfills address actual needs rather than speculative or exaggerated demands.

It is crucial that operators adhere to the commitments made in their permit applications and additional accountability ensures that facilities operate responsibly and uphold their obligations to the public and the environment.

HB 215-FN represents a vital step forward in protecting New Hampshire's environment and communities from the potential adverse impacts of landfill projects. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and a comprehensive evaluation of both harms and benefits, this legislation strikes a balanced approach that serves the interests of current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Tower
Vice President
North Country Alliance for Balanced Change (NCABC)