



North Conway Water Precinct

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Commissioners: James Umberger, Chair • Deborah Fauver, Vice Chair • Rodney Morrison
Superintendent: Jason N. Gagnon

February 7, 2026

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

I'm writing to provide a municipal perspective on the proposed HB 1275 – An act relative to the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on agriculture – specifically, the portion of the bill that would place a five-year moratorium on the land application of biosolids on agricultural land.

North Conway Water Precinct (NCWP) is a New Hampshire municipality serving portions of Conway and Bartlett, providing drinking water and wastewater services to the economic center of the Mount Washington Valley – a major source of State revenue through the Rooms & Meals Tax, and a primary driver of the north country economy.

NCWP currently disposes of approximately half of the biosolids generated at our wastewater treatment facility through beneficial reuse (primarily agricultural land application). In the past year alone, the cost of biosolids disposal has more than doubled due to market uncertainty about runaway PFAS legislation. For perspective, that cost is nearly 16% of our total operating budget – the single largest non-personnel expense for 2026.

If land application were to be banned in New Hampshire, NCWP anticipates that the cost of biosolids disposal will *at least* double again, if not more. A recent engineering report commissioned by NCWP and funded by NHDES showed the capital cost at North Conway's modest sized wastewater facility of addressing a ban on land application to be in the ballpark of \$25 million, in addition to significant annual operational and maintenance cost increases. Those costs will be passed on directly to our rate payers and taxpayers – the people and businesses that support the State's tourism economy. Those costs will be on top of recent large increases in health insurance and industry-wide inflation. We know that residents and businesses are already struggling with the cost of living and working in the Mount Washington Valley. At what point will businesses begin closing their doors? What impact will that have on tourism revenue and social services costs to the State?

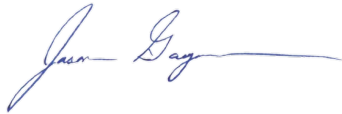
NCWP recognizes the challenging position the State has been placed in with respect to PFAS contamination. It is important to remember that wastewater treatment facilities are local leaders in environmental protection, doing yeoman's work daily to keep the waters of New Hampshire clean as affordably as possible. We are *NOT* PFAS generators – we are simply the end of the pipe where things end up after they're used/flushed. While reducing the potential for contamination of agricultural land is a worthwhile goal, that goal needs to be viewed as part of a larger, complex system where thorough analysis into unintended consequences and unfairly shifted costs are considered. What is the impact to New Hampshire's local communities if they are suddenly faced

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with massive cost increases for biosolids disposal? One only needs to speak to our neighboring towns and cities in Maine to understand just how far-reaching the impacts of such a decision would be.

Thank you for taking the time to read this perspective, and for your efforts to support affordable environmental protection in our beautiful State. If you have any specific questions about NCWP's concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Gagnon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Gagnon
Superintendent
North Conway Water Precinct.