



*DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WASTEWATER DIVISION - TOWN OF DURHAM
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(603) 868-2274*

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

My name is Matt Collins, and I serve as the Superintendent for the Durham Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), located in Durham, New Hampshire. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the treatment facility regarding HB 1275.

We appreciate the Legislature's attention to PFAS impacts on agriculture. However, we have concerns that certain provisions of HB 1275, particularly the proposed five-year moratorium on the land application of biosolids would create significant unintended consequences for wastewater utilities, municipalities, and local ratepayers.

For Durham WWTF, beneficial use, including land application, is an important management option that helps control costs, maintain operational reliability, and support environmentally responsible reuse. The Durham community prides itself on environmental protection and stewardship, with wastewater treatment staff being no exception. I am proud to be on the frontline of environmental protection and to be responsible for keeping human and non-human life safe from contaminated water and its byproducts. Like many of us, I am keenly aware of the dangers and damage unchecked PFAS contamination can bring. PFAS has been detected from the highest peaks on earth to the deepest trenches in the sea. This is a very real problem that current and future generations must tackle. However, actions such as the ones found in HB 1275 do not properly address these concerns. I believe this is a "cart-before-horse" situation, wherein a non-scientifically backed blanket ban on land application will have unintended consequences. Restricting biosolids disposals to a landfill-only approach simply shifts the problem to another avenue and does not address the root cause.

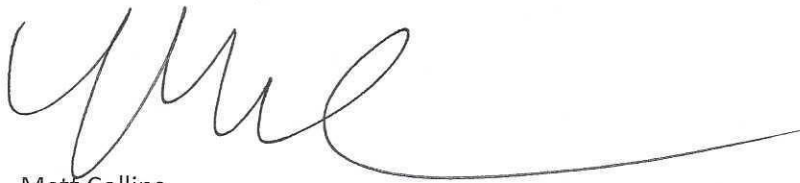
While treatment facilities and municipalities across the state are already facing tighter budgets than years previous, this sudden shift to require landfill disposal would only increase these financial pressures. With landfills in the state facing problems of their own (storage capacity being chief among them) they, too, will face an undue burden. What's more, the leachate from landfills will eventually find its way back to a wastewater treatment facility in some form or another. The cycle continues, only this time compounded with more PFAS.

Land application is the sustainable option here, as each load is meticulously inspected, tested and treated by environmentally responsible companies. I can personally attest to these practices, for back in the early fall of 2025, a load of biosolids shipped from Durham WWTF was flagged by RMI (our biosolids handling contracted company) for abnormally high levels of molybdenum. The biosolids load was set aside and not land applied. Facility staff were notified of the issue and further biosolids loads from Durham were not land applied until these molybdenum levels were under the DES threshold for safe application. While not PFAS-related, the practice remains the same. All parties involved here want safe, clean water, safe, clean soils, and a happy, healthy, sustainable environment. HB 1275 puts these

goals in jeopardy by making reactive decisions prior to proper research. These concerns of PFAS contamination are valid, this proposed solution is not.

We ask the Committee to consider amendments to HB 1275 that remove the broad moratorium on land application of biosolids, instead incentivizing further research, monitoring, best practices, and targeted safeguards that protect both agricultural soils and water quality without wholesale elimination of a beneficial management practice. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Collins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Collins
Superintendent
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