



Healthy environment.
Healthy economy.

HB 1189

February 24, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Tom Tower and I'm speaking here today on behalf of The North Country Alliance For Balanced Change (NCABC) in support of HB 1189.

Over the past few years, legislation and issues surrounding solid waste reform have been very divisive. We believe that this bill is different.

At its core, this bill recognizes a reality that many communities across New Hampshire already understand: decisions about large-scale solid waste facilities carry impacts that extend well beyond our current permitting. Noise, odor, traffic, visual impacts, effects on tourism, property values, and long-term economic consequences are often felt most acutely at the local and regional level, yet are not always fully captured through existing reviews.

HB 1189 works to accompany existing DES permitting with the creation of a Site Evaluation Committee that will evaluate projects for these broader public-interest considerations.

The bill establishes a clear, transparent, and predictable process for evaluating solid waste facilities. Applicants know the rules up front, municipalities benefit from defined opportunities for engagement, and the public gains confidence that decisions are being made on a complete record that weighs both benefits and burdens.

The composition of the committee reflects balance. It includes state agency leadership, technical expertise, municipal and planning experience, and public members with relevant backgrounds, all subject to strong conflict-of-interest standards. This structure helps ensure decisions are informed, fair, and insulated from undue influence.

The bill also articulates a clear state preference for expanding existing permitted landfills or redeveloping brownfield sites rather than siting new facilities on greenfield land. This preference is real and stated, but doesn't exclude large expansions from this process nor does it force any community to expand a landfill against the will of the community.

In short, this bill does not say "yes" or "no" to any specific project. It says that all decisions about large-scale solid waste facilities should be made deliberately, openly, and with a full understanding of their statewide, regional, and local benefits and consequences.



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That is a reasonable, responsible, and overdue step forward and we respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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