

February 3, 2026

Bethlehem Selectboard  
2155 Main Street  
P.O. Box 189  
Bethlehem, NH 03574

**RE: NCES LANDFILL UPDATES AND CASELLA'S COMMITMENT TO SAFETY**

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

Recent media coverage about the consent agreement between the North Country Environmental Services (NCES) landfill and the New Hampshire Department of Justice has understandably prompted questions regarding the landfill. I want to provide a clear update on the actions we have taken to ensure the facility continues to operate safely and responsibly.

Over the past two years, Casella has made substantial investments to improve our operations and management at NCES. This includes updating our monitoring systems, implementing a new control process, and appointing new leadership and compliance personnel dedicated to maintaining the highest environmental safety standards. While certain compliance issues required corrective action, we addressed them promptly and comprehensively.

The NCES landfill is engineered with multiple, redundant protective systems designed to safeguard human health and the environment. Based on the data we have reviewed and submitted to state regulators, these systems have functioned as intended and continue to protect the surrounding area. There is no reason to believe otherwise, despite the fears that some have raised without empirical support.

We are also aware that concerns have been raised regarding financial responsibility for the landfill. Financial assurance is a regulatory requirement in New Hampshire that ensures landfill owners set aside guaranteed funds to cover:

- Closure costs – safely shutting down the landfill at the end of its operating life
- Post-closure care – long-term monitoring and maintenance after closure
- Corrective action, if necessary, to address environmental issues

Landfill operators must prepare a closure cost estimate and maintain a financial assurance plan that guarantees the full amount needed for closure and post-closure care. This plan must be approved by NHDES before operations begin and updated regularly to reflect current conditions.

State rules (Env-Sw 1403) specify what must be included in these plans—such as detailed cost estimates, choice of financial mechanisms (e.g., surety bonds, letters of credit, trust funds), and documentation verifying the financial institution backing the assurance. Recent amendments

emphasize that cost estimates must be based on independent third-party closure costs, include supporting documentation, and for landfills, must be certified by a professional engineer.

We remain committed to operating NCES in a manner that meets regulatory requirements, aligns with your expectations, and serves New Hampshire safely and effectively.

Transparency is important to us, and we welcome continued constructive dialogue with the Town to review recent improvements, monitoring results, and operational plans. We would also be pleased to include Tim White, PG, an independent expert in hydrogeological and environmental investigation and assessment, to ensure you receive clear, third-party technical insight.

If you have questions or wish to arrange this meeting, please feel free to contact NCES General Manager Marc Morgan at [marc.morgan@casella.com](mailto:marc.morgan@casella.com).

**Sincerely,**  
CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.

**Ned Coletta**  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*