

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor

New York State Capitol Building

Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

The diverse group of environmental, environmental justice, good government and community groups listed below are writing to you today in connection with a critical situation facing residents across the state – the bevy of problems posed by poorly designed, poorly operating solid waste landfills.

More than two dozen landfills were actively operating throughout New York in 2021 -- decades after their troubling environmental and community impacts were well-known. And, despite some progress in cleaning up their operations, many of these landfills present continuing risks to public health, adversely affect local quality-of-life and contribute to the climate crisis. For example, landfills are major sources of localized pollution. They often emit hydrogen sulfide odors, flare landfill gasses into the air, and leach contaminants into groundwater. Convoys of trucks hauling waste into these facilities emit harmful diesel fumes that landfill neighbors breathe. Dust and ash from the landfills themselves drift into adjacent communities. And chronic noise pollution along with visual blight round out the list of landfill's localized burdens.

Landfills are also significant emitters of climate-destroying greenhouse gasses. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the waste sector accounts for 12 percent of New York State's greenhouse gas emissions (and that figure doesn't include, among other things, carbon dioxide emissions from out-of-state landfills). Waste deposited in landfills today, the Department concludes "will continue to produce emissions through 2050 and beyond." According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, landfills are the third largest source of methane -- a very potent global warming gas -- in the United States. Thus, New York State will be unlikely to achieve its ambitious, nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals for reducing climate-altering discharges if state officials continue to give the green light to landfill operations.

The state's largest landfill -- Seneca Meadows in the Finger Lakes region -- demonstrates this point. [Nearly 400 acres in size](#) and growing by [6,000 tons of waste every day](#) (much of it coming all the way from New York City), [the landfill is already 280 feet high](#). Community residents have long complained of odors, dust and ash migration, truck traffic and the hazard posed by objects flying off those overstuffed trucks, and landfill liquids leaching into drinking water sources for New Yorkers across the state. This landfill -- already standing nearly 30 stories tall -- has been scheduled to close at the end of 2025. But now, the Texas-based owners, Waste Connections, are seeking permission from DEC for a 15-year extension, so that the facility could continue to accept waste until at least 2040 and add an additional seven stories to the landfill towering over the region.

Greenhouse gasses aren't the only danger landfills pose to our environment: Landfills are a major source of leachate containing PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals," are a family of thousands of chemicals found in many everyday products including clothing, non-stick pans, and fast-food wrapping. Instead of breaking down, these compounds build up in the environment and in our bodies. [According to the CDC](#), exposure to PFAS is linked to harmful health impacts, including cancer, liver damage, and decreased fertility. Once those household items containing PFAS make their way to landfills such as Seneca Meadows, leachate containing PFAS can end up in our drinking water sources. Seneca Meadows landfill [produces 75 million gallons of leachate every year which is hauled, untreated, to Buffalo, Watertown, Chittenango, Steuben County and Newark, New Jersey](#), all of which may or may not be testing for and removing the PFAS.

Now is the time for effective action to begin phasing-out of solid waste landfills in New York and implementing more sustainable trash strategies that will protect neighborhoods from the Finger Lakes to Long Island, especially environmental justice communities that have received more than their fair share of waste-handling and disposal burdens for decades. Specifically, we urge you to work with the Legislature to advance proposals that would prohibit organics from being sent to landfills (or incinerators) by 2028 and phase-out the use of landfills for municipal solid waste beginning in 2030. We also request that you join with Senator May and Assemblymember Kelles in fast-tracking their legislation – the PFAS Surface Water Discharge Disclosure Act (A3296/S227-A) – that would require wastewater treatment plant operators to annually disclose levels of PFAS in their discharges and mandate that industrial waste dischargers disclose any discharges of PFAS into wastewater plants or state surface or groundwaters. Finally, consistent with the objectives of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and current solid waste laws and goals, we urge your administration to limit future landfill permit requests that would extend landfill operations beyond 2030.

Sincerely,

SENECA LAKE GUARDIAN

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

SIERRA CLUB, ATLANTIC CHAPTER

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

FOOD & WATER WATCH

FRESHWATER FUTURE

Finger Lakes Sierra Club Group

FLX Craft Beverage Environmental Coalition

Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes

Just Zero

Finger Lakes Zero Waste Coalition, Inc.
Zero Waste Ithaca
Rensselaer Environmental Coalition
Save Forest Lake
DUMP
Racial Concerns committee UUFSB
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Slingshot
Young Long Island for Justice
Concerned Citizens of Allegany County
Brookhaven Village Association
Citizens to Preserve the Character of Skaneateles
CARITAS

Seneca Lake Guardian Business Coalition

12th Moon Astrology	Barnstormer Winery
17th Century Suds	Barry Family Vineyards
A Holism In Sync	Bear Meadow Folk Instruments
A Stone's Throw B&B	Beef N' Brew
Abelson Law Office	Bella Stone Massage
Acorn Designs	Bellwether Cidery
Admiral Peabody's Lakeside Lodging	Benedict Accounting and Tax Service
Advanced Remodeling	Berta's Cafe
Airy Acres Vineyard	Bill Carini Gardens
AKS Apartments, LLC	Billsboro Winery
Aligned Business Concepts	Bitterwind Hop Farm
Amazing Grace Bed & Breakfast	Bl.ink
American Canoe Association, Atlantic Division	Blackberry Inn B&B
Ann Cain Crusade, R.N., M.S., L.Ac	Blecher Electric
Ann Sheldon, Life Coach	Bloomer Creek Vineyard
Another Time Antiques	Boathouse Beer Garden
Anthony Road Wine Company	Bob and Dee
Applegate Toys	Bob and June's Organic Coffee
Area Records	Bostwick House B&B
Argetsinger Vineyards	Bottomless Brewing
Atwater Vineyards	Bout Time B & B
Autumn Leaves Used Books	Bramble: Community Herbalism
B&B: 448 East Broadway LLC	Bread 'N' Roses
Bagley's Poplar Ridge Vineyard	Brian Grafstein LMT
	Brian Keeler, Artist

Bumble & Co. B & B
Bunnell Associates
Burdett House B&B
Burford Books
Buried Treasures Organic Farm
Buttonwood Creek Tree Farm
Calm Reflections
Camp Seneca Lake
Cappy's
Capricorn Hill Farms
Captain Bill's & Seneca Harbor Station
Cash and Caring Auction Services
Castle Creek Kombucha
Catherine Cottages
Cathy Emilian Design
Cayuga Chiropractic & Wellness
Cayuga Morning Star B & B
Caywood Vineyards
Charles Limousine Service
Chateau Lafayette Reneau
Chefs for the Marcellus
Cherry Orchard B & B
Church Creative Flooring, Inc.
Cindy Lane-Newcomb; Raven's Landing
Clean Team
Clear Path Healing Arts Center
Climbing Bines Hop Farm and Brewery
Cloud 9 Wellness
Compost International
Cortland Beer Company, LLC
Cottage Views B & B
Cotton Club at the Windmill
Cowlick Farms
Creating Change
Creativelink Photo/Graphics Services
Creeside Cafe
Crestwood Pools Inc.
Crooked Lake Winery
Cummins Nursery
Curry Creek Vineyards

Custom Care Pharmacy
D. Bordwell Editorial Services
Damiani Wine Cellars
Dan Rapaport Consulting
Dano's Heuriger
Daphne's Delights
Darlene Bordwell Photography
David Mooney-State Farm Insurance
Deep Lake Industries
DeMarco Vineyards
Derek's Diner
Dewitt Park Inn
Digital Wires
DigitalWires
DigitalWires
Discovery Massage
Dixie O'Connor, Fine Arts
Down to Earth Markets
Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars
DS Hoffman, Luthier
Dundee Scottish Festival of the Finger
Lakes
Eagle Crest Vineyards/ O-Neh-Da Vineyard
Earthgirl Flowers
Earthgirl Pottery
East Side Dog Services
Echoes of the Glen B & B
Edible Finger Lakes
Eli Thomas Art
Ely Fruit Farms
Emery Vineyards
Eminence Road Farm Winery
Enigma Skin Care Studio
Eremita Winery
Eve's Cidery
Evolving Studios
Exercise Enterprise
Factivist
Faith Muirhead, Educational Consultant
Farm Kind

Farmer Ground Flour
Farmshed CNY
Finger Lakes Clean Waters Initiative, Inc
Finger Lakes Concierge
Finger Lakes Distilling
Finger Lakes Estate and Auction Company
Finger Lakes Florist
Finger Lakes Foie
Finger Lakes Food Company, LLC
Finger Lakes Gifts and Lounge
Finger Lakes Mill Creek Cabins
Finger Lakes Natural Health
Finger Lakes Soap Company
Finger Lakes Transport and Tours
Finger Lakes Vacation Rental
Finger Lakes Waterfall Resort
Finger Lakes Website Services
Fingerlakes Angling Zone Guide Service
FingerLakes1.com
Firehouse Distillery
Fleur De Lys of the Finger Lakes
FLX Best Wine Tours
FLX Table
FLX Winery
Forever Green Tree Care Services
Forge Cellars
Fork & Gavel Cafe at Cornell
Fossil and Till
Fox Pond Products
Fox Run Vineyards, Inc
Fox Trot Stables
Free Spirit Design Glass
Free to Be Me Coalition for Peace
Frisch Kitchen
Frog Hollow Marina
Frontenac Point Vineyard and Winery
Fruit Yard Winery
Geneva Bicycle Center
Gentle Giants B&B
GentlyBorne Midwifery

George's Prosound
Gil's Honeybees
Gimme! Coffee Inc.
Ginger Cat B&B
Glacier Ridge Vineyards
Glen Mountain Market
Glendale Farms
Glenhaven Farm Winery
Glenora Wine Cellars
Global Taco
Golden Knight Inn & Suites
Golden Orb Tattoos and Piercings
Good Earth Health Foods
Good Karma Candles
Good to Go! Market
Goose Watch Winery
Graceful Arts Fiber Studio
GRACES (Grass Roots Accomodations
Coalition for Energy Sustainability)
Graphic Connections
Greensprings Natural Cemetery
GreenStar Cooperative Market
Gryphon Construction
Halsey's Wood Fire Bistro
Harvest Cafe
Hayward House B&B
Hazelnut Kitchen
Hazzlitt 1852 Vineyards
Heart & Hands Wine Company
Heart to Heart Yoga
Heavily Brewing Company
Hector Handmade
Hector Logging Company
Hector Wine Co.
Hemlock Hills Alpaca Farm
Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard
Heron Hill Winery
Hipshot Products, Inc.
Hotel Groton
Humble Hill Farm and Lodge

Hunt Country Vineyards
Idol Ridge Winery
Ileen Kaplan Piano Service
Indian Creek Farm
Inner Decisions
Interludes
International Climbing Machines
Irish Carpentry
Italy Hill Produce
Ithaca Acupuncture- Integrative Medicine
Center
Ithaca Soap/17th Century Suds
IthacaDomains.com
J & D Landscape Construction
Jabberwock
JCC of Greater Rochester
Jeremy and Erica Crytzer
Jesi Turner, Musician
Joe's Hots
Joseph M Rao Inc.
Journeyman Services
JR Dill Winery
Just a Few Acres Farm
Just Desserts
Kali Herbs
Kate Gustin, CPC - Joy of Living Health
and Life Coach
Keep in Touch Therapeutic Massage
Keuka Artisan Bakery & Deli
King Ferry Winery
King's Garden Vineyards
Kingbird Farm
Kirton's Farm Market
Knapp Winery
Krys Cail, Farm and Food Business
Development Consulting
Kurtz Construction
Lake City Hobby
Lakehouse B&B
Lakeland Winery

Lakeside Refrigeration Service
Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars
Larson Publications
Lawrence Reverby - Attorney at Law
Leaf Kitchen Restaurant
Leidenfrost Vineyards
Lilly Broadcasting
Linda Parks, CPA and Financial Advisor
Linda Ruth Astrology
Live Well Upstate: Massage Therapy and
Natural Medicine
Locke's Glen, LLC Vacation Rentals
Macro Mamas
Magnolia Place B & B
Main Street Bike Shop
Manndible Cafe at Cornell/ Fork and Gavel
Cafe at Cornell
Marmalade Cat B & B
McGregor Winery
Medleys Cafe & Catering
Michael Turback-Food and Wine Writer
Moon Heart Studios
Moosewood Restaurant
Mother Earth Natural Foods
Muddy Fingers Farm
Native Plant Nurture
Natural Health Family Chiropractic
Nautical Nights B & B
Newell Farm
No Man Services
North East Organic Farming Assoc. of NY
Northeast Band Supply
Northstar Public House
O'Shaughnessy Antiques and Fine Arts
Gallery
Odessa Coffee Depot
Old Fashioned Flowers from Fernville Farm
Owl Gorge Productions
Paradise on the Lake B and B
Parker's Grille

Passport Creations
Penguin Bay Winery
Perennial Evolution Farm
Peter Drobny - Glass Consultant
Pi Truck
Pine Tree Farms
Pioneer Printing
Plowbreak Farm
Pompous Ass Winery
Preliminaires Chocolat
Privacy on the Lake B & B
Quality Wine Tours
QWIK Solar
QwikSolar
Rasta Ranch Vineyards
Ravines Wine Cellars
Reagan's Canoe and Kayak Livery
Reality Realty
Red Dove Tavern
Red Jacket Orchards
Red Newt Cellars
Red Tail Ridge Winery
Regional Access
Relax Inn
RENOVUS Energy, Inc.
Rising Sun Reiki
Robinia Redux Locust Fencepost Plantation
Rooster Fish Brewing
Roots and Wings Performing Arts Academy
Rustic Log Cabins
Sabol Farm
Salubrious Farms
Sapsquatch Pure Maple Products
Sawmill Creek Vineyards
Schank Companies
Seneca BioEnergy
Seneca Chief Guide Services
Seneca General Store
Seneca Harbor Station
Seneca Harbor Wine Center

Seneca Lake General Store
Seneca Lake Vacation Rentals
Seneca Lodge
Seneca Lodge Craft Brewing
Seneca Lodge Lake House
Seneca Physical Therapy of the Finger
Lakes, PC
Seneca Sailing Adventures
Seneca Shore Wine Cellars
Seneca Springs Resort
Seneca Strategic Consulting, LLC
Seneca Sunrise Coffee
Seneca Wine Boat Tours
SenecaLakeVacationRentals.com
Senecayuga Properties, LLC.
September Hill Midwifery
Shalestone Vineyards
Shaw Vineyards
Sheldrake Point Vineyards
Showboat Motel and Restaurant
Silver Springs Winery
Silver Thread Vineyards
Six Circles Farm
Skyland Gallery
Skyland Guest House
Snug Planet and Snug Solutions
Solar Systems Unlimited
Southern Tier Hops
Squires Accounting and Tax Services Inc.
Stalks and Stones
Standing Stone Vineyard
Staving Artist Woodwork
Stick and Stone Farm
Stomping Grounds
Stone Pillow Pottery
StoneBoat Computing Solutions
Stonecat Cafe
Stony Lonesome Farms LLC
Studio West
subject2change Media

Summit to Stream Adventures
Sun Dance Creations
Sun Garden Grille
Sunrise Hill Vineyards
Sunrise Landing B & B
Sunset on Seneca B&B
Sunshine Natural Foods
Sustainable Viticulture Systems-Proprietor
Suzanne's Fine Regional Cuisine
Swamp Road Baskets
Swedish Hill, Goose Watch, and Penguin
Bay Wineries
Sweet Chariot Livery
Sweet Mother Nature
Tabora Vineyards
TAITEM Engineering PC
Tchotchke
The Black Sheep Inn
The Burns Sisters
The Elf in the Oak
The Good Life Farm
The Keep at Newell Farm
The Last Word
The Pearl of Seneca Lake B & B
The Piggery
The Soap Garden
The Water Cottage
The White Gazebo
Themis and Thread
Think Topography
Thomas Merrill Professional Land Surveyor
Three Brothers Wineries
Three Swallows Farm
Three Tree Inn B & B
Thunder Mountain Foods
Thyme Stands Still Fruit and Vegetables

Tim McKinney,
Photographer/Writer/Woodworker
Tim Regan
Tim Wells- Furniture Maker
Tom Blecher
Tom Weidemann
Tree Gate Farm
Turbo Taxi
Two Goats Brewing
Two Sisters Cottage on Seneca Lake
Unique Pool Service
Upstate Energy Solutions
Vaping Bad
Ventosa Vineyards
Villa Bellangelo
Waterloo Container
Waterloo Custom Apparel and Gifts
Watkins Glen Massage
Watkins Glen Wine and Spirits
Wayne Schutz
West Haven Farm
West Main Kitchen
West Side Wine and Spirits
White Gazebo Inn
White Wizard Consulting, LLC
Wide Awake Bakery
Wild Flower Cafe
Wine a Bit and More
Wine Forward
Wine on Ice
Wixom Farm
Wolf Tree Farm
Zero to Go LLC