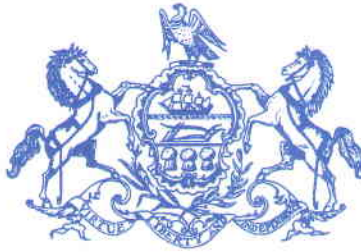


KYLE MULLINS, MEMBER
112TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

June 30, 2020

Mr. Roger Bellas, Waste Management Program Manager
DEP Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701

Dear Mr. Bellas:

When in the role of a public servant – a state representative, in particular – it is important to understand and elevate concerns expressed by constituents – to be their "voice in Harrisburg." On the matter of Keystone Sanitary Landfill's (KSL) pending application for expansion, this is one such instance. Consistent with my prior public commentary and the concerns of an overwhelming number of constituents, I am opposed to such a lengthy and substantial expansion of the KSL as requested in its "major permit modification" currently before the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for technical review.

It is my understanding that the DEP typically issues renewable operating permits in 10-year increments, and while an operating permit is separate from the expansion permit at hand, the volume of waste associated with the application under review would extend the life of KSL for roughly 44 years at the current plan and rate of acceptance. The DEP should not grant approval for a volume of waste beyond that 10-year horizon and it should also consider regional landfill capacity. It is my view that approving a half-century's worth of waste at KSL – or any landfill for that matter – forecloses on the prospects for increased recycling efforts; new recycling or composting technologies; emerging recycling markets; or the legislative will to incent or call for any or all of the above.

Now, it would be inappropriate of me to put my trash out to the curb every Monday evening and simply not care what happens with it from there – and then engage in rhetoric that ignores the fact that our municipal waste must go somewhere, but just not in my proverbial "back yard." The fact of the matter is, however, our local municipal waste and a significant flow of out-of-state trash has been coming to our collective "back yard" in a major residential area for a very long time. Residents should not be forced to accept this arrangement to the tune of another 44 years. Additionally, I have personal and community concerns for anything that has the potential to cause "transitory health effects for sensitive populations, such as pregnant women, children, older adults and people with respiratory disease," as noted by a recent Pennsylvania Department of Health assessment.

In closing, I would encourage the DEP to consider the concerns I am conveying on behalf of my constituents. I thank you in advance for a thorough review of the pending application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle J. Mullins".

Kyle J. Mullins
Pennsylvania State Representative
112th District