

News from Senator Catharine M. Young

57th Senate District

Representing Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and portions of Livingston County



For Release: Immediate, February 9, 2018
Contact: Lisa Hill (518) 455-3569

Senator Young Sends Letter to DEC Citing Opposition to Proposed Landfill in Town of Carroll

Albany, NY -- Citing her “extreme opposition to the landfill expansion proposed by Sealand Waste,” in the Town of Carroll, State Senator Catharine Young (R,C,I – 57th S.D.) has sent a letter to the regional office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation urging the agency to reject the pending permits by the company to reopen and expand the Jones-Carroll Landfill.

“There is overwhelming opposition to Sealand’s proposal to reactivate the Jones-Carroll facility into a construction and demolition landfill. State, county and town officials and members of the community have expressed deep concern about the environmental, economic and quality of life impacts that would result from the proposed operation,” said Senator Young.

“The debris and waste generated at the site would threaten the natural habitat and groundwater of the surrounding area and destroy property values in the thriving residential neighborhoods adjacent to the site. Additionally, the property is in close proximity to the Martz/Kohl observatory, a wonderful resource to the community and tourist destination which is in the midst of investing in a significant upgrade of its facilities. The observatory’s operations would be threatened by the dust, turbulence and other byproducts of the landfill. For these and many other reasons, I am in wholehearted agreement that this proposed project should not move forward.”

The letter that Senator Young sent to Charles Cranston, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Office, follows.

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February 9, 2018

Mr. Charles Cranston
Deputy Regional Permit Administrator
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Office
182 East Union- Suite 3
Allegany, New York 14706

Dear Mr. Cranston:

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the landfill expansion proposed by Sealand Waste, LLC in the Town of Carroll, Frewsburg, New York.

I have many concerns over the ramifications of this proposed 38-acre landfill, projected to accept over 1,000 cubic feet of construction and demolition material per day. The impacts associated with a project of the size and scope of this facility is entirely disproportionate to, and at odds with, interests of this rural community. As you know, the Town of Frewsburg, in 2007, passed a local law prohibiting the operation of landfill facilities within the town for these very reasons.

The property is very close to the Martz-Kohl Observatory in Frewsburg, which is a valuable resource to the surrounding area. As you know, the project would pose significant impacts to the observatory due to light pollution, air turbulence, airborne dust, telescopic interference, ground vibration, and gas flaring. The Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, which operates the observatory, has found a number of misleading or inaccurate assumptions and oversights in Sealand's suggested mitigation measures to prevent harmful ramifications to the observatory. I have enclosed a copy of information I received from the association, which fully explains the misconceptions and inaccuracies contained in the information DEC has received from Sealand. I am hopeful that the DEC will be fully aware of and thoroughly consider these points.

The Sealand proposal envisions up to 250 waste hauling trucks traveling in and out of the area per day. The State has recently invested millions in promoting tourism opportunities in the

area. The traffic generated on the two lane rural roads adjacent to the Martz facility and the Town of Frewsburg would be wholly inconsistent with the public tourism and educational opportunities currently provided by the town and the Martz Observatory.

Furthermore, the damage caused to local roads, bridges and traffic patterns would be extremely disruptive. Numerous trucks generating dust and noise on a daily basis would significantly degrade the surrounding environment and property values with the area. Frewsburg Central School busing routes would also be interspersed with this new traffic.

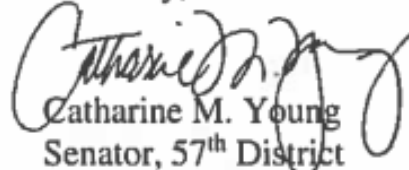
Due to the unknown composition of the construction debris accepted and processed, and the resulting dust and waste that will be generated, there is a significant threat to surface runoff and groundwater contamination. This presents detriment to the quality of nearby streams, and woodlands, as well as the surrounding neighborhood. The leachate and groundwater runoff could threaten trout spawning and destroy bald eagles nesting habitats. The proposed landfill is located in a thriving rural residential area with existing residences along the property boundary and nearby dairy farms and an alpaca farm. The landfill would significantly affect these property values.

Noting the effects of landfills upon their community, the Town of Carroll Town Board acted in 2007 to amend their zoning ordinance to prohibit landfills. It is my understanding that although Sealand and the town are currently involved in litigation over the right of Sealand to intervene as a succeeding party in litigation involving the legitimacy of the 2007 ordinance, my office has received many complaints from my constituents expressing their concerns about the devastating effects of the proposed landfill and indicating the situation.

Chautauqua County has also passed a resolution opposing the landfill for quality of life as well as economic reasons. The proposed Dodge Road facility would be in competition with the currently operated taxpayer funded county owned landfill located only 20 miles away from the proposed site.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the pending permits before the DEC, and express the many reasons that the proposed project will be contrary to the community's best interests.

Sincerely,


Catharine M. Young
Senator, 57th District

Enc.
CMY/tr
CC: Honorable Basil Seggos