

Susan E. Allen
26 Pleasure Hill Road
N. Franklin, CT 06254

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Members of the Environmental Committee:

This letter serves to relay valid concerns regarding Bill Number 5319. There seems to be many good aspects to the bill regarding recycling and generally moving Connecticut to a more 'sustainable' green future. However, also buried within the bill, under Section 7, is some troubling language. Someone seeks the proverbial "to pull the wool over committee member's eyes".

The verbiage in question regards an ash residue disposal area. Presently, before an ash-landfill can be built, a company or agency has to prove there is a need for such an environmentally hazardous place. Showing "Public Need" seems like the most basic of requirements and raises suspicions when someone is trying to circumvent the process, as is being done in this bill as it stands. The CGA website shows the respective language as being added to the existing bill and this verbiage is obviously catering to special interests and not looking out for public in general and specifically the safety of Connecticut citizens.

Paraphrasing the passage, it reads...

Section 7.

*"(a)Except as provided in subsection (b) of section 16-50Z, no person shall exercise any right of eminent domain in contemplation of, commence the preparation of the site for, ... that may, as determined by the council, have a substantial adverse environmental effect in the state without having first obtained a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need, hereinafter referred to as a "certificate"... **Certificates shall not be required for** (1) fuel cells ... (2) fuel cells... (3) a solid waste facility or resources recovery facility, both as defined in section 22a-207, or (4) **an ash residue disposal area**, as described in section 22a-285a."*

I can't speak to the other exceptions, not knowing the consequences well enough but a landfill should definitely have to show public need; therefore, I humbly request that this added language regarding exemptions for ash residue disposal areas be stricken from the bill. Thank you for your consideration and hopefully your support.

Sincerely,
Susan E. Allen