



State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

September 11, 2020

New Haven City Plan Commission
Attention: Edward Mattison, Chair
c/o City Plan Department – Director Aicha Woods
165 Church Street, 5th Floor
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

**Re: New Haven City Plan Commission September 16, 2020 Meeting - Opposition to 1573-01 19
Wheeler Street Site Plan and Coastal Site Plan for the acceptance and transfer of putrescible
municipal solid waste**

Dear Chairman Mattison:

As members of New Haven's State Legislative Delegation we are writing in opposition to the expansion of the Wheeler Street Transfer Station in New Haven. In doing so we stand with residents of New Haven, neighboring businesses, community leaders, alders, and the New Haven Environmental Advisory Council in opposition to the expansion – both the physical addition to the current processing facility and the acceptance of putrescible (wet) waste.

This is in large part due to the fact that location is in very close proximity to the mouth of the Quinnipiac River. The City of New Haven has already become an overburdened hub for other waste management facilities and this raises a lot of question about environmental justice. Our City should not be further burdened with the task of providing a trash transfer station for a private entity to haul in trash from other towns. This would only cause further environmental degradation and environmental health concerns in an already distressed area of New Haven. Effectively doubling this facility will increase New Haven's carbon footprint in an area of the city, where it needs to reduce not increase its environmental load. Please also take into account the concerns regarding the existing facility's history of fires, the potential harm to air quality, and the expected increase of traffic if this plan for expansion were to move forward.

There are so many other safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives than shipping in this type of waste so close to an environmentally sensitive area. Currently, all New Haven trash is required to go the solid waste authority on Middletown Avenue under flow control, which we think is a better alternative plan that keeps taxpayer costs under control. Allowing for putrescible trash to be brought to this facility will likely lead to outside garbage being brought into our community from other towns and not even serve New Haven, which will only bring in more traffic, pollution and serve as a disincentive for any other businesses and economic development.

These same concerns can be asserted regarding churches, residential neighborhoods and other businesses nearby. We must also take account of atmospheric emissions run off and potential harm to access to safe and clean air and underground drinking water. Not only can potential pollution arise from this type of waste being brought to the area, but also from the increased truck traffic and noise pollution, in what is already a high traffic area and one of the most environmentally burdened places in New Haven.

We respectfully ask that this request to expand the Wheeler Street Transfer station not be approved and thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on this matter.

Sincerely,



Rep. Al Paolillo, 97th House District



Rep. Patricia Dillon, 92nd House District



Rep. Robyn Porter, 94th House District



Rep. Roland Lemar, 96th House District



Senator M. Martin Looney, 11th Senate District



Rep. Toni Walker, 93rd House District



Rep. Juan Candelaria, 95th House District



Rep. Michael DiMassa, 116th House District