

THE GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

January 30, 2019

Town of Princeton Office of the Selectboard 6 Town Hall Drive Princeton, MA 01541

To the Princeton Selectboard,

Thank you for alerting us to your objections to the proposed expansion of the Fitchburg-Westminster Landfill project within Leominster State Forest. The environmental and health impacts of such an expansion give us pause for concern. There is not any legislation currently filed that would allow for the acquisition of the Article 97-protected land in question. We would, however, be opposed to any related land acquisition that comes before the Legislature should Waste Management and the Town of Westminster fail to adequately address your concerns.

We understand your disquiet regarding the detrimental impacts this would have on the Town of Princeton and its residents. Groundwater contamination, the destruction of open space, and decreased property values, in addition to the increased odors and infrastructure usage affecting nearby residents, are not issues that should be taken lightly. We are also aware of the current problems with the landfill; particularly the strong odors that are impacting nearby residents' quality of life. We have reached out to the Department of Environmental Protection, and they have assured us that they are in receipt of your complaints, and are taking this issue seriously.

Please keep our offices informed should there be any further developments on this issue, and as always, don't hesitate to contact us if there are any other questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Harriette L. Chandler

State Senator

First Worcester District

Kimberly N. Ferguson

State Representative

First Worcester District