

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble
Mayor

January 9th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to urge the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to immediately initiate the rulemaking process to establish new regulations regarding the effective management, treatment, and disposal of landfill leachate.

Recent findings highlight the urgency of this issue. A new report, “The Threat of Landfill Leachate to Drinking Water in the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers,” exposed regulatory gaps- the so called “Leachate Loophole- that allow untreated landfill leachate to be sent to municipal wastewater treatment plants, which discharge the landfill leachate and the highly concentrated contaminants it contains directly into the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. These rivers serve as drinking water sources for approximately 368,000 people. The report revealed that from 2019 to 2023 an estimated 89 million gallons of landfill leachate were discharged annually.

The current regulatory system is failing to adequately address the leachate problem. A new waste management regime is necessary to protect the public and shift cost burdens away from municipalities and back to polluters. As a part of this process, I believe product stewardship, especially those creating these new forever chemicals should bear the responsibility. I believe DEC should consider the new Climate Superfund act as a way to assist landfill owners the ability to pay for these important upgrades to the system. The rulemaking process would allow various stakeholders to collaborate in designing a system that is both equitable and efficient.

Sincerely,

Steven T. Noble
Mayor