

Roy Cooper, Governor State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 576 AN ACT TO (1) REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO APPROVE AEROSOLIZATION OF LEACHATE AND WASTEWATER FROM A LINED SANITARY LANDFILL FOR THE DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; (2) ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO APPROVE AEROSOLIZATION OF LEACHATE FROM UNLINED LANDFILLS; AND (3) PROVIDE THAT AEROSOLIZATION OF LEACHATE OR WASTEWATER THAT RESULTS IN A ZERO-LIQUID DISCHARGE AND IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT AIR CONTAMINATION SOURCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SOURCE THAT REQUIRES CERTAIN PERMITS.

In this bill, the legislature exempts particular technologies that could potentially better ensure the health and safety of people and the environment. Scientists, not the legislature, should decide whether a patented technology can safely dispose of contaminated liquids from landfills. With use of the word "shall," the legislature mandates a technology winner, limiting future advancements that may provide better protection.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

Roy Cooper Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House of Representatives on this the 30th day of June, 2017, at 4:500 for reconsideration by that body.

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