

PROTECTION OF LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG FROM LEACHATE ORIGINATING FROM THE COVENTRY, VERMONT LANDFILL

Resolution to prohibit the discharge of landfill leachate, treated or not, anywhere in the portion of the Memphremagog Watershed within the boundaries of the City of Newport.

WHEREAS, Lake Memphremagog is a natural and cultural jewel of the NEK, shared between the United States and Canada, and plays a fundamental environmental, cultural, economic, and social role for the surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, any discharge of contaminants within the Lake Memphremagog watershed poses a potential threat to the City of Newport's drinking water Source Protection Area (SPA), including waters that flow into the Black River, a tributary that runs directly through the City's designated Source Protection Area, the City's primary drinking water source;

WHEREAS, the lake is a shared international water body and an essential drinking water source for over 185,000 neighbors in Quebec, requiring responsible stewardship and protection;

WHEREAS, this landfill generates significant amounts of leachate, containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS or "forever chemicals";) and other toxic and hazardous pollutants;

WHEREAS, the discharge of this leachate into the Lake Memphremagog watershed has been prohibited by an Act 250 moratorium since November 1, 2019;

WHEREAS, upon the expiration of the current moratorium, leachate could once again be discharged into the Lake Memphremagog watershed;

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies have demonstrated that landfill leachate contains high concentrations of heavy metals, PFAS, volatile organic compounds, and other emerging contaminants that are not fully removed by PFAS filtration systems or conventional wastewater treatment processes;

WHEREAS, the discharge of leachate, treated or not, into the Lake Memphremagog watershed poses a serious risk to public health, notably due to the persistent presence of toxic and hazardous pollutants such as arsenic, cadmium, volatile organic compounds, and PFAS, a large family of thousands of chemical substances recognized as being harmful to human health including cancer, immune system disruption, and numerous chronic disorders;

WHEREAS, treating leachate within the Lake Memphremagog watershed raises serious environmental, health, and ethical concerns, particularly as it could facilitate a new expansion of

facility or at any other existing or future location within the Lake Memphremagog watershed;

WHEREAS, elected officials on both sides of the border share a duty of mutual respect and shared responsibility in preserving the Lake Memphremagog watershed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Newport City Council expresses its support for and urges the Vermont Legislature and the Governor to enact legislation in the 2027 session to provide permanent protection for the waters of the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Newport affirms its commitment to protecting the health of its residents, the integrity of the local environment, and the long-term sustainability of the lake that defines our community.

Adopted this 4th day of MAY, 2026.

Signed:



Acting
Mayor & City Manager