

MEMORANDUM

TO: Effingham Planning Board
FROM: Mark Longley, Center Sandwich
DATE: 1 June 2023

SUBJECT: **Proposed Gas Station in Effingham**

I am retired polymer chemist living in Sandwich. As the coordinator of our town's well water quality assessment program, I have become familiar with our aquifer's challenges. Consequently, I would like to express two serious concerns about the proposed gas station in Effingham.

1.) Watershed Interdependence

Sandwich and Effingham share a common water source in the Ossipee Aquifer. Although Sandwich has the advantage of being in the 'upstream' position with respect to water flowing in Effingham's direction, any town's actions have effects on 'downstream' localities. Sandwich has a strong groundwater protection ordinance, but if we approved a variance allowing the construction of underground storage tanks in one of our aquifer's sensitive recharge locations, and if there was a contamination incident causing harm not only to our residents but also downstream localities, I certainly would concur with the folks in Effingham should they rebuke Sandwich authorities for their unwise decision to approve the variance.

2.) Precedence

The role and responsibility of municipal governments is to uphold their groundwater protection ordinances, especially as these regulations directly involve the health and safety of its residents. We in neighboring towns are concerned that abating an ordinance in one town opens the door to similar actions in other towns in the watershed, placing us all at risk. Many people in my town share the opinion that Effingham should be a positive example in standing up for the laws protecting our people and environment.

Thank you for taking so much of your board's time to review and consider feedback from local folks, including residents from other towns in the watershed. We sincerely hope you decide to do the right thing and prevent the construction of a gasoline station as currently proposed.

Sincerely,

Mark Longley
North Country Farm, Sandwich, NH