

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Coalition of New York City Businesses and City Residents Sue City Over Law Mandating Arbitrary Capacity Reductions in Waste Facility Volumes

Arlington, VA – A coalition of NYC businesses, NWRA, and NYC residents filed a lawsuit Friday, November 16, 2018, challenging a New York City law that requires more than twenty transfer stations located in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx cut the amount of waste they process, far below what their state and city permits allow. The petitioners include NYC transfer stations, NYC residents and the association representing the solid waste industry in NYC. Transfer stations are sites located in industrially zoned areas where solid waste is consolidated before hauling to recycling facilities and out-of-city disposal sites. Local Law 152 singles out certain transfer stations and requires reductions in their legally permitted capacity ranging from 33 to 50 percent.

Local Law 152 hobbles the capacity of the New York solid waste industry to serve the public with safe, environmentally sound and economical garbage management. The City ignored required environmental reviews in order to pass a law that does not improve the environment and in fact will increase traffic and air pollution. This arbitrary law will extinguish hundreds of jobs in low-income communities and imperil family owned businesses that run transfer stations, and small vendors and fuel suppliers that rely on them. The City also ignored New York State law governing solid waste management and disregarded the City's own Solid Waste Management Plan.

Over the last ten years NWRA and the coalition bringing this lawsuit tried to negotiate with the City to agree to lawful and fair reductions in transfer station volumes across the City, consistent with the City's Management Plan. The City ignored these efforts, as well as the advice from the City's Department of Sanitation, and refused to negotiate. The City also ignored its duty to study the environmental and job impacts of Local Law 152 and instead white washed those impacts with a flawed assessment in an illegal attempt to stay below thresholds for a full environmental review.

Steve Changaris, Director of the NYC Chapter of NWRA, commented that "we do not take pleasure in taking legal action against New York City. Our member companies and this association have worked closely with City officials for decades to efficiently manage solid waste and keep New York City clean and healthy and we worked to avoid this litigation. Unfortunately, the City Council and Mayor have unfairly targeted our transfer stations for volume reductions that will harm our customers, our employees, our businesses, and the City."

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ABOUT NWRA

The National Waste and Recycling Association represents the private sector waste and recycling services industry. Association members conduct business in all 50 states, and include companies that manage garbage, recycling and medical waste, equipment manufacturers and distributors, and a variety of other service providers. For more information about NWRA, please visit www.wasterecycling.org.

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