



AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST

Ground Water Education since 1986

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April 5, 2022

April 7 public hearing – Gas station Threat to drinking water resources

**Theresa Swanick, Chair
Effingham Planning Board
68 School St.
Effingham, NH 03882**

Sent via email to: pb.admin@effinghamnh.net

I can't speak to the specifics of the issues related to the gas station that will be on the Planning Board's agenda at the April 7th public hearing. However, I give my full support to preventing a potential environmental and economic disaster that could result from hydrocarbon contamination from an injudicious siting of a gas station. The Ossipee Aquifer can't move. A gas station can be sited in a different place.

The American Ground Water Trust, (AGWT) is a 501(c)(3) national education organization, headquartered in Concord, NH. Our mission is focused on ensuring the protection and sustainability of groundwater throughout the US. In the last 30 years the AGWT has convened hundreds of conferences, forums, and workshops on water resources issues. In New Hampshire, the AGWT works with the NH Department of Environmental Services in organizing the Annual Source Water Protection Conference in Concord attended by many of the state's communities where groundwater is the supply source. Three out of five citizens in New Hampshire are dependent on well water as their drinking water supply. Once an aquifer source is contaminated, it is a permanent loss of essential environmental and economic inventory.

Back in 2013, in partnership with the Green Mountain Conservation Group, we organized a training program in South Tamworth for teachers from local schools. The science of groundwater movement and source water protection was part of the two-day event.

My personal familiarity with the critical importance of groundwater has come from professional experience as a groundwater consultant, professor, and educator. For a period of 10 years as adjunct faculty I taught a course on groundwater protection policy at Antioch Graduate School in Keene.

Sincerely,

Andrew Stone (Hydrogeologist and Executive Director)