

Supervisor Romaine Demands Stronger Regulation of Mulch Facilities at State Hearing

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Farmingville, NY – Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine spoke about concerns regarding the regulation of commercial mulching operations at a public hearing held by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation on June 2 in Hauppauge.

Supervisor Romaine spoke about the quality of life impacts these operations have had on residential neighbors, and the need to have strong state regulations in place for these businesses. The Supervisor detailed numerous instances of these facilities plaguing residential communities with dust, odor, truck traffic and noise, and detailed several instances where fires at these locations have threatened the homes of nearby residents.

Currently, New York State does not regulate mulching facilities, but has proposed revisions to the regulations governing solid waste management in New York State. The Supervisor expressed concerns that the proposed revisions were not comprehensive, did not adequately address quality of life problems caused by these facilities and did not address the need for local zoning compliance.

Last year, Brookhaven Town supported state legislation that would have strictly regulated mulching and composting facilities on Long Island. While this bill was approved by both houses of the state legislature, it was vetoed by the Governor.

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