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LETTER

Taking Out the Trash

Published: June 14, 2008

To the Editor:

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[A Whiff of Naples Arrives in Hamburg](#) (June 9, 2008)

Re “A Whiff of Naples Is Arriving in Hamburg” (news article, June 9):

There is a cautionary tale for New York City in Naples’s garbage dilemma and Hamburg’s solution.

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New York City presently exports all its garbage out of state, with at least 70 percent going to landfills for burial.

What Hamburg and other cities have shown is that with a committed planning and implementation effort, waste reduction, recycling and innovative waste disposal solutions can successfully coexist.

Why should New York City consider exporting waste to distant landfills a long-term solution for its garbage problem? This policy burdens city residents with increasing transport costs and gives up the value of the waste in terms of both the energy and discarded metals that it contains.

In the face of rising oil and commodity prices, New York City should follow the example set by Hamburg and continue to expand its recycling and waste reduction programs without ignoring the development of innovative waste-to-energy projects and materials-recovery programs.

Eileen Berenyi

Westport, Conn., June 9, 2008

The writer is president of Governmental Advisory Associates, an environmental and recycling consulting company.

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