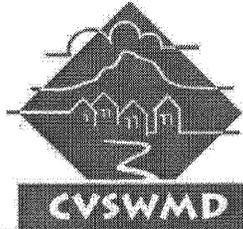


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*Helping Our
Cities and Towns
Reduce Waste,
Reuse
and Recycle*

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

March 23, 2015

Chairman Tony Klein
Vermont Statehouse
House Natural Resources and Energy Committee
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairman Klein,

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District has supported Act 148 since the original bill was introduced in 2012. We have embraced the new mandates and our staff and Board have been working diligently toward meeting the goals unanimously agreed upon by the legislature in 2012. We took the proactive step of hiring a Planning Analyst a year ago to assist us in assessing the infrastructure and programming we will need to meet Act 148 mandates for our 18 member communities.

CVSWMD has already met many of the mandates included in Act 148, such as parallel collection of recyclables, and diversion of organics from restaurants and institutions. CVSWMD operates as a service provider for organics diversion in our region, hauling roughly 1,500 tons of food scraps per year to composting operations. The CVSWMD currently provides organics hauling services and technical assistance to all of the 22 public schools in the District as well as 57 central Vermont business and institutions. Our program participants range from institutions the size of Norwich University, Central Vermont Medical Center and the Statehouse cafeteria to Dunkin Donuts and the local deli.

Given our knowledge of the cost of waste reduction infrastructure and program implementation, we are concerned about the challenges in planning for, and developing the services and infrastructure to implement Act 148, in the absence of uniform funding mechanisms. We fear that inconsistency in infrastructure and services will inevitably occur unless funds are provided by the Vermont legislature for the implementation of Act 148. We therefore urge the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee to consider the funding options proposed in the Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee Report as presented in February of 2015. CVSWMD specifically supports the implementation of a Solid Waste Service Fee, a disposable bag tax on plastic and paper bags, and diverting \$100,000 of the Solid Waste Assistance Fund to planning activities and feasibility studies for Universal Recycling infrastructure implementation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leesa Stewart', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Leesa Stewart, General Manager