

VERMONT SOLID WASTE DISTRICT MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION

Teresa A. Kuczynski, President
c/o Addison County Solid Waste Management District
1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: (802) 388-2333 Fax: (802) 388-0271 teri@acswwmd.org

April 9, 2014

Tony Klein, Chairman
VT House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Vermont State Legislature

Re: S.208

Dear Chairman Klein and Committee Members:

The VT Solid Waste District Managers' Association consists of the 10 solid waste districts and two planning alliances – the Mad River Resource Management Alliance and the Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance Communities – with authority to manage solid waste in Vermont. Together, the Managers' Association represents 83% of the state's population.

Although opinions may differ regarding specific portions of S.208, one fact remains: We are all rolling up our sleeves and forging ahead with implementation of Act 148. The Association members are in the process of: gearing up to rewrite our solid waste implementation plans in conformance with the State Materials Management Plan (MMP) once it is adopted; revising contracts and/or entering into new ones; constructing expanded facilities; purchasing new equipment; hiring new staff; borrowing and allocating funds; and assisting town facilities and haulers to adapt.

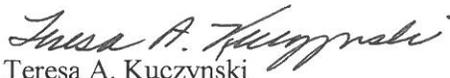
Overall, the proposed MMP introduced by the Agency of Natural Resources is a timely and helpful guide to establishing goals and performance standards toward this endeavor. The accountability being built within Vermont's solid waste system is generating the willingness to cooperate and collaborate better amongst ourselves and with the VT DEC Solid Waste Division.

We believe that the following section of S. 208 is premature:

- (a) On or before December 15, 2014, The Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the Senate and House Committees on Natural Resources and Energy a report recommending the most efficient and cost-effective governance system to implement Act 148 of 2012, including (i) the costs and benefits of joining a solid waste district, and (ii) whether or not consolidation of solid waste districts is necessary to accomplish the legislative objectives of Act 148 of 2012.

Given that the Proposed MMP will not be released until late May 2014 and that all Solid Waste Management Entities will then have 12 months to submit their district/alliance/town Solid Waste Implementation Plans, it appears best to let the process work as designed. If districts/alliances/towns cannot meet the criteria as outlined in the MMP, then they should be held accountable. Further, our Association does support the creation of a Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee and looks forward to participating.

Sincerely,



Teresa A. Kuczynski
President, VSWDMA
(Central VT Solid Waste Management District abstaining)