



WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

327 OLD FERRY ROAD, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

(802) 257-0272 • FAX (802) 257-5122

www.windhamsolidwaste.org

Brattleboro March 23, 2015
Brookline
Dover Representative Mike Hebert
Dummerston Vermont Legislature
Guilford Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Halifax 113 State Street
Jamaica Montpelier, VT
Marlboro 05833
Newfane Re: Funding for Implementation of Act 148
Putney
Readsboro
Stratton
Townshend
Vernon
Wardsboro
Westminster
Whitingham
Wilmington
Winhall

Dear Mike:

As we discussed in our meeting with you and several of our local trash hauling companies last week, WSWMD, as well as the haulers, will be better equipped to meet the mandates of Act 148 if funding is made available by the state.

Per the recommendations of the Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee report to the Legislature, a combination of loans and grants could be funded by a number of potential sources of funds (e.g., service fee, Bottle Bill escheats and plastic bag fee).

For WSWMD, our highest priority funding need is for constructing an enclosed, in-vessel composting facility for food scraps and yard debris. We are currently the only permitted composting facility for food waste in Windham County, and as you know, we have been composting the organic waste collected curbside by Triple T Trucking from 1,000 volunteer households in Brattleboro.

In addition, we are receiving food waste from a supermarket, and starting next month, The Retreat. As you and I have experienced as residents of Vernon, when we started curbside PAYT recycling last July, one year ahead of the Act 148 deadline, the quantity of recyclable materials separated increased significantly, including a doubling of the tons of food and organic waste dropped off by residents.

We anticipate a similar increase in organic waste collected in Brattleboro once PAYT starts this July, and we have a real need to make an investment in additional equipment to process and handle the organics. We have been operating the composting facility in a very low-tech manner that is not sustainable as the quantity of organics increases over the next five years.

I would be pleased to provide testimony to your HNRE Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Spencer".

Robert L. Spencer
Executive Director

cc: Lou Brusio, Chair
Jan Ameen, Vice Chair
Teri Kuczynski, President, VT Solid Waste District Managers Association