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On Friday, March 11, 2016 5:55 AM, Pat Austin <paustin76@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear committee members,

As I understand you're still considering a tax in H.602 I urge you to please consider the impact on businesses residence in the smaller haulers in the State of Vermont. As chairman Tony Klein stated you guys are a policy committee not the money committee and the policies, timelines and mandates in act 148 need to be adjusted. You guys need to understand that some of these mandates and timelines are wrong and need to be corrected. I feel strongly that this committee should be considering holding off on the implementation of organics. If this is done it will give everybody involved time to come up with a better funding mechanism for people to set up for that service doing away with the need for a tax at this time. I understand there is some talk of a sunset I'm sure we all know that that simply is not going to happen. How many times of I heard the committee say the agency of natural resources will go bankrupt in a couple years. With that looming does anybody really believe that they will Sunset a funding source that the agency rely so heavily on. I know you heard from a lot of solid waste district that say that there is a severe need for funding and they're very upset whenever you guys talk about not adding a tax. I hope you all understand the reason they are so upset is because they know that most of this money will end up in their hands and will not benefit the commercial businesses in the state, industry in the state or anybody that uses curbside rubbish service. You guys as policymakers for the state of Vermont residents and businesses make policy for the whole state, need to consider all areas of the state and how they're impacted by policies that were pushed by urban areas. There needs to be more flexibility for all the parties involved or all the funding in the world is not going to help. We need to justify where this money goes and the hauling community knows where it needs to be spent. We are the ones on the ground doing the work and we're the ones with the most expensive mandates. Finally I ask you not to make a knee-jerk reaction just because of the looming deadline today has, this is not right please do not pass it. I have tried to be very involve this whole process and shed some insight on what we're dealing with in one of the most rural and poorest areas of the state, unfortunately I will not be able make it down today because my job requires that be here..... no matter how bad I want to be part of this final discussion please consider my thoughts.

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Patrick Austin
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