



CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
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March 24, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Klein,

As you know, CSWD supported the passage of Act 148 and continues to support the law as it is implemented state-wide. We support the Committee not rushing to make changes to the law before stakeholders have been given an opportunity to implement it in the next year or two. CSWD had already met many of the provisions of the law such as mandatory recycling and parallel collection requirements years prior to the enactment of the law. Additionally, we have already invested in our recycling collection and processing system (MRF) and in a compost facility that still has some reserve capacity. Therefore much of the infrastructure is already in place in Chittenden County and very little funding is necessary to meet the mandates for the next few years.

CSWD recognizes that some feasibility studies and additional infrastructure in other parts of the state are critical in the implementation and overall success of Act 148. We support and encourage the Committee to carefully consider the funding options in the Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee (SWIAC) report that were presented in February. Specifically, we would like you to further consider the bag tax and a fee on solid waste services. CSWD staff supports these two funding mechanisms because the bag tax could quickly provide some funding for the feasibility studies and public space containers while the fee on solid waste services is a more sustainable funding mechanism than the current franchise tax that could provide capital for infrastructure in the form of grants (25%) over a defined period of time.

Although the majority of funding generated would likely not be used initially in Chittenden County, we support the initiative. We have always maintained the position that if the provisions of Act 148 are successful in other parts of the state, it will only enhance the success of solid waste reduction and diversion in Chittenden County which is the core of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas E. Moreau', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Moreau
CSWD General Manager