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Cheryl Franklin

Chairman Klein & House Natural Resources & Energy Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns over H.602. As I previously expressed Franklin & Son Rubbish Removal is against H.602 and any increase in the franchise tax.

As waste haulers we are the messengers of this proposed increase. We primarily haul for the residential community. The average Vermonter may get a 2-3% pay raise each year and then they are told what their share of health insurance increased to. Also, groceries are always increasing. Recently gas prices decreased, but they have taken a steady increase in the last two weeks and appear to be on their way back up. In addition, property taxes increase every year. My point is that the average Vermont household cannot afford any more tax increases! This increase would put Vermont among the highest waste taxes.

I did put our "wishes" of what we would like to purchase to implement Act 148, but many of our purchases had to be made prior to 7/1/15. I do not see the benefit of taxing customers to have this money go to Montpelier and letting them decide who gets the money. I can decide who to raise and when. I do know that our local district put many items on this list which are not necessities just "wishes". I know that a 25% match will not be beneficial to the Windham Solid Waste Management District. My husband and I are on the board.

The original \$6 waste tax was started to help with recycling and the solid waste districts. Out of 3.2 million currently raised only \$27,000 comes to our local district-2.2 million stays in Montpelier.

We do not support any exemption for out of state trash. As an example if I come into Vermont from NH or MA and purchase gas, soda, or cigs I do not get an exemption from the tax. If I run a convenience store close to the state border I cannot give exemptions to customers just to be competitive with NH or MA stores.

Please also note that prior to Act 78 there were over 500 waste haulers. As of 2006 there were only 277 haulers and I know that number has decreased even more. You are driving the small haulers like us out of Vermont!

Thank you for your consideration.

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