



April 6, 2015

Honorable Christopher Bray, Chair
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
State House
115 State St.
Montpelier VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairperson Bray,

I am writing on behalf of the 246 cities and towns in Vermont to urge your support of H. 269. H. 269 would eliminate a barrier to flexible handling of soils that are excavated during redevelopment of properties in our municipalities' downtown and urban areas. We support H. 269 as it was passed in the House.

Redevelopment and development of properties in downtowns and village centers often results in the need to relocate soils that have been removed for foundations, footers and structures such as parking garages. Current law frequently requires that those soils be treated as solid wastes and trucked long distances to landfills (Coventry) because they contain low background levels of potentially hazardous materials. Of course, the surrounding soils, which are not excavated as part of the project, are highly likely to contain the same background levels of those materials.

The expense of handling such soils can add tremendously to overall project costs and are often unanticipated. Impediments to redeveloping in downtowns are already significant despite state policy of encouraging compact settlements surrounded by rural countryside. A change in the Vermont rules could reduce or eliminate the costs associated with handling these excavated soils, protect public health and moderate the costs of developing in downtowns.

H. 269 would establish a process for finding suitable alternative locations and management protocols for excavated soils. We urge your committee to pass H. 269.

Sincerely,

Karen Horn
Director Advocacy & Public Policy

Sponsor of:

VLCT Employment
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