



**Testimony relating to S.260
Submitted to the Vermont House Ways & Means Committee**

Chairman Ancel and Committee Members,

My name is Bruce Westcott; I serve as General Manager of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District and am Vice-Chair of the **Vermont Solid Waste District Manager's Association** (VSWDMA). Association membership is open to any SWME (Solid Waste Management Entity); our member organizations currently serve the solid waste management needs of 90% of Vermonters.

The VSWDMA recognizes that the General Assembly is moving to recapture the bottle bill escheats. In considering Sen. Polina's original amendments proposed to S.285, we declined to take a group position as to whether or not the disposition of escheats should be changed.

However, since Legislative decisions made in moving S.285 have indicated interest in re-directing those funds to public purposes, we have taken a firm position.

If the Ways and Means Committee is considering public uses of the escheats, please know that the VSWDMA has resolved to urge those funds be dedicated to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Fund. The position of the majority of Association members is:

The VTSWDMA supports the recapture of the Escheats as long as the captured funds go into the Vermont Solid Waste Management Fund for funding the infrastructure in the public and private sector as envisioned in Act 148 [VT Universal Recycling Law].

Vermont has a very ambitious organics diversion law and a universal recycling system that is under great stress, both in the commercial sector and in the municipal/state sector. These demands are documented by an ANR studies, which you can find here:

- <https://ilsr.org/rule/vermont-organics-recovery/> , and
- http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/FinalReport_Act148_DS_M_10_21_2013.pdf

“Total capital investments are estimated at \$42 – \$45 million over the nine-year implementation period, or an average about \$5 million per year.”

I am attaching excerpts relating to capital investment required, taken from the authoritative 2013 study of the impacts of Act 148.

We recognize that there is a lot of pressure on limited public funds. It is the firm sense of most solid waste districts that the bottle bill escheats are best reallocated into the under-funded solid waste system to help it modernize to meet the demands of state mandates broadly supported by this body in Act 148.

Thank you.

April 26, 2018