



Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present one viewpoint on “Zero Waste” in your discussion of H.454 this morning.

In response to the Chair’s request for further information:

- I will confirm with the VT Solid Waste District Managers Association that we would be eager to be represented on a study committee, should you chose to enlarge membership. As I said, we work closely the the Solid Waste program of ANR/DEC, and consider ourselves to be a primary stakeholder in discussions about waste policy. Some of the Districts operate facilities which serve whole regions of the State, and would be crucial participants in discussions of infrastructure investment.
- With respect to study committee membership, the Agency has convened several meetings of stakeholder to discuss Universal Recycling; agendas, attendance and minutes are at <http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/universal-recycling/UR-stakeholders> . I am not aware that licensed solid waste haulers have an active statewide association; some of them are very localized “mom & pop” operations, but you will also recognize

the names of statewide or regional business entities. Haulers are a diverse group, but should also be counted as a major stakeholder.

- I hope you will look at <http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/2016-Diversion-and-Disposal-Report.pdf> -- the most recent annual report of the Solid Waste Division, giving a good state overview. The 2013 statewide Act 148 implementation study I mentioned is referenced in this report, and will be updated next year.
- I believe that your support for the continued implementation of Act 148 is the single best “zero waste” – related position you can take during this biennium. A quick overview of Universal Recycling is available at http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/Universal-Recycling/UR_SummarySheet_CURRENT.pdf
- The graphic at left focuses on food waste, which may be the aspect of “Zero Waste” which may be on the radar screen for Vermonters as we implement new food waste prevention and diversion strategies set forth in Act 148. I know that your committee is focused on job creation. Vermont jobs have been created at each level of this hierarchy over the past few years, and will continue to be created as businesses grow or emerge to implement these strategies. Many parts of Vermont lack the services and facilities to fully implement best practices in managing food surpluses and waste. In other areas food banks have expanded, commercial businesses focusing on collection and disposal of organic wastes have sprung up, and digesters have come on line. Job creation trends will continue as all regions of Vermont develop the facilities and services to fully implement these strategies.

Please let me know if I can answer other questions.

Cc: Paul Tomasi, Chair – VT SW District Directors Association
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