



NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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The Honorable David L. Deen, Chair
House Committee of Natural Resources
Fish and Wildlife

Sent via email to: Christy Ketchel, cketchel@leg.state.vt.us

Subject: Testimony from the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District in support of H. 560 – Conservation and development; hazardous waste; household and hazardous substances.

Representative Deen and Committee Members,

I am writing to offer the support of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) for the draft legislation H.560. The NEKWMD is responsible for managing a hazardous waste (HHW) collection program for our 49-member towns with an overall population of ~48,000 people. In addition to our seasonally-available permanent facility, we offer approx. 8 regional collection events annually throughout the district.

Under current funding mechanisms, the NEKWMD cannot allow non-district residents to dispose of HHW through our collection program due simply to the cost of disposal. We believe that the funding mechanisms proposed by H. 560 would allow for the development of regional permanent year-round HHW facilities that are blind to district borders. This would undeniably increase convenience for Vermonters when disposing of corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reactive substances that, when improperly disposed, are known to have negative effects on human and environmental health and safety.

Managing materials in an environmentally-sustainable, cost effective manner directly relates to the mission of the NEKWMD, and has been a top priority of all Vermont Solid Waste Entities. We recognize that funding these programs is a complex issue, nonetheless implementing a funding mechanism that focuses on producer responsibility rather than government-funded and ratepayer-financed mechanisms would reduce public costs while placing more responsibility on the manufacturers that promote the sale of hazardous products in the state of VT. This funding would not only pay for the disposal of HHW, but also the outreach and education to residents and businesses necessary for successful collection programs.

Thank you for your work on H.560 and your consideration of the needs of NEKWMD and all Vermont residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Choquette, Outreach Coordinator
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