

State of Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301
Re: H.679
February 8, 2018

Dear Chairman Deen and Committee Members,

Please accept this letter of support for H.679. TAM Inc is a waste and recycling company that I, Trevor Mance, started twenty-one years ago as a senior in high school with a desire to make a positive change in our environment. Today TAM has grown to include three companies: TAM Inc is our hauling company, TAM Recycling LLC which operates Vermont's only fully private material recovery facility and TAM Organics, which is Bennington County's only commercial composting facility and the largest private composting facility in the state. Between the three companies TAM has grown to employ almost 60 employees by working very hard and providing excellent customer service. This was accomplished without relying on state subsidies and grants.

TAM Recycling in Pownal, Vermont was built to follow and support ACT 148 as it developed and progressed through its many phases. TAM has always believed in the ultimate goals of Vermont's recycling laws but in order to help with the costs to reach these goals there needs to be an even playing field. When we sited our recycling and waste transfer facility in Pownal (two miles to Massachusetts, and five miles to New York) we expected to capitalize on out-of-state recycling to help pay for the facility's cost and infrastructure, with waste transfer being secondary to the recycling. After three years of operation we are finding the recycling markets are extremely volatile. We will make a profit for a few months only to see the markets change and loose money for a few months. The only component that has remained consistent over the last three years is waste.

The issue that H.679 is trying to fix for all Vermont border facilities is the fact that we have a tax that our out-of-state competitors do not have. This tax puts the border facilities that are trying to import out-of-state dollars in order to survive, at a definite competitive disadvantage and restricts our ability to have the economy of scale to provide our Vermont state customers with the savings that come with lower operating cost. If passed this would undoubtedly increase our employment by 5-10 jobs (all of which will be paying taxes), increase our transfer tax to the waste department, increase our corporate tax and create a lower operating cost and thus expense for our Vermont customers. **These gains would far outweigh the loss of the franchise tax.**

To achieve this change, I recognize that it will take work and time. As someone that was a part of the Infrastructure Committee for Act 148, I recognize work needs to be done to ensure all parties understand the pros and cons of this proposal. I am willing to participate in this process and urge the committee to see the big picture of what this will mean for the economies of Bennington, Windham and Windsor counties where there are effected facilities. These counties also happen to be among the most economically depressed areas of the state. We are not looking for a hand out, just a level playing field with our out-of-state neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Trevor Mance

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