

Beverage Association of Vermont

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Members of the House Natural Resources,
Fish & Wildlife Committee

Good Afternoon:

Thank you for your continued work on S.285. While we disagreed with the version of that legislation that passed the Senate, the proposal has generated positive conversations around the issue of increased recycling. That conversation has lead several private parties to explore the development and implementation of a privately funded system to recycle film plastic.

The Beverage Association of Vermont, working with partners including the Vermont Wholesale Beverage Association, commercial recyclers (possibly Casella or Myers), the Vermont Retail and Grocers Association, City Market and other commercial haulers, proposes to privately finance pilot projects to comprehensively recycle film plastic including shrink wrap and plastic bags in Vermont. This proposal builds upon the testimony of Allison Hope and Brent Demers of City Market, emphasizing the need to comprehensively recycle film plastic and would seek the input of buyers of recycled film material such as Trex Decking and other companies.

This proposal would be entirely private funded and would provide the financial resources necessary to complete the film plastic recycling project being proposed for Burlington as described by Allison and Brent. Our thinking includes the development of other recycling projects in various Vermont locations such as Williston, Rutland and Brattleboro. Funding would be used to purchase bailers, roll-off containers and other necessary infrastructure to develop new collection locations. In addition, we would develop a consumer education and information campaign advising Vermonters of the current and future locations available to recycle film plastic.

We propose to report back to the Legislature in January 2019 as to the recycling programs we have developed.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. MacLean