

Christy Ketchel

From: Stephen Smith <pds_waste@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 9:39 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Act 148

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Good Evening,

My name is Steve Smith, I am the owner/operator of PDS Waste Management in New Haven, VT. I understand that the Vermont House is currently considering potential changes to Act 148 as it applies to mandatory composting in Vermont.

PDS is a locally owned and operated small business serving all of Addison County. We currently serve 700 customers for both trash and recycling. As a smaller trash hauler in the state, I have had to be creative and have successfully picked up trash and recycling with one truck and one stop at each location, this is better for the environment and less expensive for my customers. Trucks are not designed to pick up a third type of waste. The additional requirement to pick-up organics would likely require me to add another full time employee running the route a second time, thereby raising the rates for my customers and negatively impacting the environment.

Additionally, compost would be a more difficult product to deal with. It must be handled in a specific way. Many customers leave trash and recycling out the night before to accommodate trash providers early start in the mornings. Leaving out food products will encourage rodents and other animals and will likely result in a mess for both homeowners and company employees. In the winter, the food scraps will be frozen and difficult to remove from containers to transfer into the truck.

While I support the idea of composting, I believe it is a better plan to allow citizens to make that choice themselves rather than to mandate and regulate the process. I strongly encourage you to reconsider mandatory food composting for residential customers as required in Act 148.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Steve Smith
PDS Waste Management
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