

Bob Spencer
Executive Director
Windham Solid Waste Management District

Dear Senators Balint and White:

I am contacting you to request that you not support recent efforts by some solid waste haulers to weaken Act 148. In my next email I will forward responses prepared by Pat Sagui, Director of the Composting Association of Vermont, with my assistance as I am vice chair of CAV.

As Becca knows as a founding participant in Brattleboro's curbside food waste collection program, it has been very successful, and saved the town considerable money as they implemented PAYT, and then went to every other week trash collection, but maintained weekly recycling and food waste collection. Peter Elwell and Patrick Moreland can confirm, and I am copying them, as well as Kate O'Connor in her role on the Selectboard during the past few years of addressing recycling.

My main concern is the proposed amendment to hold the minimum generation of food waste at 26 tons per year, and not go to 18 tons per year this July, since that will undermine the establishment of District-wide commercial and institutional food waste collection because we need more participation to provide so-called "route density." Currently, Triple T Trucking, Goodenough Rubbish, and TAM all have commercial organics collection programs in the region, and they need more customers to expand their programs.

WSWMD has a grant from ANR to work with food waste generators in Brattleboro, and has identified 60 generators that will be required to eventually implement food waste recycling. We conducted a workshop last month in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, and are linking generators with haulers. Kate O'Connor participated in the workshop, and has been supportive of these efforts on behalf of the Chamber's members.

Also Peter Gaskill, General Manager of Triple T, can confirm the successful business model they have built around commercial and institutional organics collection for more than 10 years, hauling to Martins Farm in Greenfield, and now WSWMD's food waste composting facility.

Similarly, Trevor Mance, President of TAM, Inc. can confirm his successful organics collection route, and composting program in Bennington

Ester Fishman of the Londonderry solid waste alliance can also confirm their successful food waste drop-off program for residents and businesses at the Londonderry transfer station, and collection by TAM, a year ahead of the mandate of this July.

If a compromise is to be made, our District would understand an Act 148 amendment that does not require haulers to offer food waste collection to residents at an additional fee starting this July.

At our District's meeting last week we discussed applying for an exemption from ANR for this provision, which is allowed and will be granted by ANR to Northeast Kingdom. However, we decided not to seek the exemption since a hauler offering such collection will charge a high rate to cover their costs, and most people will not sign up. We also have lots of backyard composting, and 10 transfer stations that will have food waste drop-off starting July 1. Brattleboro (WSWMD), Dover and Vernon have had drop-off for food waste for more than 5 years.

I am copying Paul Tomasi, Director of the NEKSWD and President of the Vermont Solid Waste District Managers Association, as well as Adam Necranson, who works on legislative issues for the solid waste district's.

I am of course available to discuss these issues with you, and could testify if needed.

Thanks for your consideration of this issue!

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