

1/12/18

SNRE – S.285 ad S.287

Lisa Ransom, Owner, Grow Compost of Vermont

Vermont has grown most comprehensive closed loop food system in the country. Partnered with many entities and invested in equipment. Food donations up 43divereted 2400 tons of food scraps (Testimony on line)

Do not feel that it needs to require all haulers to haul but keep the ban in place. 71% of customers are at or below the 18 tons/year.

As thresholds drop does this help with route density? Yes

The hauler requirement is not needed because grow compost and other small haulers are responding to the marketplace.

Johanna de Graffenreid, Environmental Advocate, VPIRG (written testimony on-line)

Rodgers – don't force everyone into the business of picking up. Shouldn't tell business that they have to invest to upgrade trucks.

GHG – how much money and time has been put into glass recycling. Sometimes more GHG savings to put it in the landfill then to recycling.

CB – mentioned best use of organics is food. What is the food story. Large scale food producers can donate food to state's food bank. Food bank up 40%. Keep requirement for large producers to divert.

Campion – are haulers and others investing and getting ready to do this and now are we backtracking that would harm them.

VPIRG – solid waste districts already helping businesses to implement this.

Sarah Reeves, General Manager, Chittenden Solid Waste District

District Managers Association – what it is agree on food waste ban and fast trash

CP – when I bring my compost to a transfer station I don't have to pay. Is that going to change in 2020. Sarah – that will be up to each district and alliance. CP – will I have to pay at the transfer station. SR – my sense is that we are going to charge everyone at a DOC.

SR – I question your survey because no one knows how much it will cost. Chittenden County rural is different than NEK rural. CSWD should offer and don't force haulers to pick up. If casella couldn't make it work than no one can. (let's get earth girl in here).

CP – Does CSWD subsidize GMC? SR – yes like all municipal compost we do – that is the norm.

CB – if haulers are not required to pickup. What will happen? 19% is going in the trash now. Once the ban is in place they will figure it out.

Kim Crosby, Casella Waste Management

Small generators don't have staff or money to divert food waste. Estimated it can cost about \$3,000 per year

Residential collection – pilot

Food waste ban hard on elderly and low income

Carbon foot print of requiring haulers and separating food waste to other locations

Casella investment at landfill to capture methane

CP - if you didn't have organic food scraps what would happen – slowly effect the quantity of gas. How long? Don't know. Organic matter is essential to the process of creating gas.

Campion – what have you invested in to prepare for this?

When we pass something and people invest, it is serious if you go back and make changes.

KC – no this is not an area for us at the residential level. Haulers that have invested can still

provide the service. Campion – so you

Mcdonald - Rural areas are served by just one hauler. Like a monopoly.

CB – when did we start requiring the pickup of recyclables. KC – we have many customers that still don't take us up on that service. CB – will that experience tell us how the food waste will go.

KC – yes, people are not doing it right? CB – do you have data on how many people do it right?

No.

Bill Moore, (Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce)

Support eliminating the requirement for businesses to remove food waste \$\$ to businesses.

GHGE – landfill is producing energy with the organics and trucking would increase GHG.

C – threshold has been in place for a few years. DO you have a sense of the costs. BM – do not have a sense but will be passed directly onto the consumers.

Campion – hospitals and larger generators diver to food banks. BM – if they can.

BC – must be examples of mandating private industry for the health and benefit of society/Vermonters. BM – many mandates.

Todd Bouton, General Manager, Farrell Distributing Company

Speak about glass and proposal of wine in the bottle bill.

Contamination is a problem and low value. Unclaimed deposit makes up for the short fall. Over 50 breweries but few participate. Commingling is a challenge. NH leakage. System is much larger and more complex than when it was originally put in place. Bottle bill is not working fine. Return rate in November was 117%. Fraud in the system.

Suggest that recycling to be looked at as a whole. All producers share in this responsibility in the form of a mill tax. Would produce more revenue for the state to invest in a comprehensive single stream system.

Rogers – I agree we have outlived the bottle bill and we should look at this system.

Andrew MacLean, Lobbyist, MMRVT

Using deposit to move a certain material type from the recycling stream which is interesting. Our idea is to eliminate the PET in aluminum in the bottle bill and give to MRFs to help with bottom line to help with glass. High recycling rate of glass is hurting MRFs. Maybe put a fee on beverage containers to help compliance with Act 148 and support the recycling infrastructure. A comprehensive system (blue bin) is preferred rather than taking material out of the system. We want to work with glass.

Rogers – you would support my idea of getting rid of the bottle bill? AM – yes but you have to replace it with something better.

BC – wanted clarification of what he meant by getting rid of the bottle bill.

MM – if you put a huge deposit on the glass it will get separated and recycled.

AM – glass is inert and not a precious resource. It could go to landfill. Also talked about EPR.

Rogers – it is more environmentally friendly to put glass in the landfill. But my area is source separated and the state tried to force us going to single stream and now that is a problem because of the contamination in single stream. We are doing it the right way and have less trash per resident than any area in the state.

AM – read the analyses on Act 148 that the state did. It is very low value and expensive to move.

MM – who is paying for glass – hauler, solid waste district etc? let's find out who is paying for it and get the expense on the right entity.

Lauren Hierl, Executive Director, Vermont Conservation Voters

Involved in the bill – passed unanimously and acknowledged that the organics would be a struggle. GHGE issue – deliberately sending more organics to a landfill to power something is not the direction of our state. Overall oppose the organics ban and requirements that haulers collect leaf, yard and food residuals. IF there are challenges with markets that is where the committee should work on. Don't support the haulers to be able to charge a separate fee for recycling. Research was done on this by ANR and showed this produces success.

Bottle bill – support expanding the bottle bill because the glass can be recycled.

Repealing instead of working on the hard parts is not the right direction.

CP – what do you think the risk would be for mandating the hauler requirement. People will put out waste and not recycle or compost which conflicts with goal of act 148.

Rogers – don't force business to be in a business they don't want to be in. Where are the haulers supposed to come up with the money? Not fair if they don't know its viable. Go ahead and keep the ban and so you have to figure out how to deal with that. Lauren – lets figure out how to make the business work (pilots, subsidies, policies).

Rogers – agency is not always right. They pushed toward single stream. And that was a big mistake. We are doing it better and have very little contamination rates.

Rogers – glass needs to be source separated.

MM – if you make glass more expensive to buy then the customer will buy aluminum. Make the price so that they stop buying glass.

CP – people won't stop buying wine.

MM – wine is probably a small amount.

BC – if we move forward would be interested in hearing about financial supports of ways to do something generally around these issues.

Tom Gilbert, Owner/Operator, Black Dirt Farm, Stannard VT

Don't have to put the pressure on the haulers to provide organics collection. Dangerous to relieve haulers requirement AND generators. IF you do both, then you no longer have organics diversion.

If you take the ban out you lose the whole premise of Act 148. We have not been adequately creative or assertive going into this. Instead of backing off, we need to drive a bit harder.

They are a private organics hauler collecting over 30 tons per week and deliver to a farm and 60% to our farm. Collection is thriving and making very personal decisions based on

opportunity. Have changed the market geography because more opportunity to expand closer to the farm. Not going out of business. Because of the law, the market is stimulated and we have been able to expand closer to our facility. Primarily pick up from businesses. We have 5 locations where residents can drop off. Two competitors in our region on organics. Doesn't make sense to mandate service where there is no place to bring the material. Landfills are an extremely poor way to manage methane.

Can't drop the mandates that produce the materials that is the backbone. To walk away would be devastating. The idea of no longer pricing trash on volume would no longer change behavior.

On Board of Center for the agricultural harmony in Hardwick. There is federal funding to explore many of these endeavors. Glass is a commodity. Why is the department of commerce in this conversation? Lots of opportunities to repurpose this material. Like adding value to milk by putting in a bottle that identifies where it was made and how it was made.

If only think of this as a commodity then we get stuck in a paradigm with no solution.

Why there has not been inter-agency work on this. Tremendous opportunities to feed people and farms. 70%-8% of poultry producer cost is feed. Agency of Ag has not been part of the conversation and looking at feeding hens as a non-Agricultural activity which will impede his. Triggers need to be looked at – 20 miles. Composting is low on hierarchy. There is no reason why composting needs to exist if the material doesn't need to go to composting.

CP – connecting a lot of dots. That is what I like and the challenge. Food waste hauling part of your business but the law gives permission to contract out. Last year the haulers said that they didn't like that because it was promoting competitors. If the mandate is held, would you consider expanding your business to subcontract.

TG- we have looked at that and talked to the haulers. We have a low tolerance of contamination. I pay someone 5 hours a week to minimize the contamination. This starts getting into wholesale approach. The reason it works is we have relationships with the customers.

Rogers – why would you put someone in the middle of the hauler's business?

Rogers – love the point of looking at glass as a commodity – what are the opportunities.

Also on the NEK waste district board

Craig Goodenough, Hauler, Windham County

Board took a vote and they were not in favor of the ban. With limited space in Brattleboro.

Compost is more than food scraps. Tom is non-profit. Tripple t and I are in competition. No brainer to do this for people that generate 2 ton a week because they save money. I can't provide service in areas because it cost too much.

Haulers got very little chance to talk about Act 148. Were told we could influence it more before it was signed.

Tip floor is \$85 a ton and trans is \$15/ton. And the MRF makes a product that is useless. Tipping fee is \$100 – its cheaper. Who is going to regulate this ban? Im still going to do it. We sell our own cardboard but ship everything else out (other recycling). Cardboard is the only real value in single stream.

Biggest thing is we are different than food scrap guys.

2020 ban should be out. I am still going to do it but the smaller hauler is going to struggle.

More rubbish than in single stream than anything. Same is going to happen with the compost issue.

If you pull food waste out, then the trucking is more expensive. If I have more tonnage then the cheaper the cost is for transportation because it is flat rate.

BC – could you submit some of those fact and figures to us.

State jammed the haulers. I have used up all my money for recycling.

CP – so you had a central place for food waste? Curious about the quality of the contamination.

Are there contamination problems at non-monitored location? M

Most of my material is from businesses.

Pat Austin, Hauler, Orleans County

Act 148 not going well in NEK. IN direct competition with our swd. They collect the material already in almost every town. Have less pound per capita because we are poor. Already diverting food waste because they are poor and resourceful.

Irritated that sarah took a stance from the district managers assocaton – good old boy club and have DEC there too. Not warned and no minutes. Objective to come together on one voice on legislation like this.

Lobbyist in the building paid for by a tax.

We pay a tax that funds the competition (free service from solid waste districts).

I can't provide free recycling without route density. So many problems with the recycling. No one is monitoring the people not recycling. Haulers are telling them that they don't have recycle and I lose the customer.

Tom Guilbert is servicing businesses that make sense of the business.

The whole premise with food waste has been pushed down legislators in Vemront. Food waste is not a problem in Vermont. Zero haulers here screaming that they spent a bunch of money for this law.

CSWD subsidizes their GMC by \$300,000 a year and commissioned a study that said they would have to increase the tipping fee by 80-90 a ton or they will have to close and go to you to change the law.

I'm going to be in direct competition with Tom Guilbert.

Skips over to offering recycling for free issue.

Disingenous for districts to say this is a cost saving for people in state. Burlington has proved it. They can't make curside organic operation works and we are still saying we need a ban. Food waste is not a problem. GHG is not the problem and landfilling it is not a problem. People are going to divert it if it makes sense not because it is the law.

Glass – takes more energy to create a bottle than to recycle.

DEC will eventually have to enforce and shut down haulers that refuse to comply.

Solid waste districts drive cost too high.

Ken Albert, President, VT Grape and Wine Association

Natasha Duarte, Director, Composting Association of Vermont

Nicole Whalen, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Vermont Food Bank

Jason Marring, Chief Operations Officer, Vermont Food Bank

Karen Horn, Director, Public Policy & Advocacy, Vermont League of Cities and Towns

