



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S. 285 and s. 287. We have testified on waste management legislation for many years and on the mandates for universal recycling and separation of food residuals since Act 173 was first debated.

As with many areas of governance, local officials strongly support giving municipalities flexibility to address issues in the manner that they determine best suits the particulars of their community. With respect to waste management, that means to price components of the waste stream according to systems that work for their communities and to provide mechanisms for collection and management of solid waste, mandated recyclables, leaf and yard waste, and food residuals that will work in the varying circumstances of rural and urban cities and towns. Some municipalities have dense development and robust systems for collection; others are rural, address compostable materials in backyard composters, and are served by one or two haulers. As circumstances differ, the most effective methods for managing the waste stream will too.

S.285 would make a number of changes to Vermont's waste management laws. We support several of those that would give flexibility to municipalities. As background, the Waste Management Division has a map of every city and town in the state and their waste management plan status. According to [a report](#) from the Waste Management and Prevention Division, every municipality now has a solid waste management plan. We support the following provisions in S. 285 and S. 287.

S. 285:

- amends the requirement for certified waste collection facilities to collect yard and leaf waste so that collection is required only between April 1 and November 15;
- eliminates the requirement to further phase in collection of food residuals for persons collecting fewer than 52 tons per year. Commercial haulers of solid waste – who are still required to offer collection of recyclables separate from solid waste and deliver them to a recycling facility – would not have to offer collection of leaf and yard waste or food residuals separate from other solid waste. A commercial hauler could charge a separate fee to collect mandated recyclables, leaf and yard residuals, or food residuals from a residential customer;
- deletes the ban on disposal of food residuals in solid waste or landfills;
- eliminates the mandate for municipalities to implement a variable rate pricing system for residential solid waste based on volume or weight of the waste collected.

S.287 would:

- would expand the definition of solid waste facilities to include bag-drop or fast-trash sites where solid waste, mandated recyclables, leaf and yard waste, or food residuals are temporarily collected on specified days or times.
- would allow solid waste management facilities to charge a separate fee to collect mandated recyclables.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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