



Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce

At Beaulieu Place

“Where Business and Opportunity Meet”

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Responsibly improving the climate for doing business in the Central Vermont Community.

Statement Before
Vermont General Assembly
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Presented by
William D. Moore
Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce
January 12, 2018

S 285 An Act Relating to Universal Recycling Requirements
S 287 An Act Relating to Universal Recycling Requirements

Chairman Bray, Senator Campion, Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy:

My name is William D. Moore. I am the President and CEO of the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce. The Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization serving Washington County and a portion of Orange County. Our diverse membership consists of some of the largest businesses in Vermont as well sole proprietorships. Virtually every sector of Vermont's economy is represented in our membership.

Thank you for the opportunity to be before you today to discuss our support for S 285 *An Act Relating to Universal Recycling Requirements*, and provisions contained in S 287 *An Act Relating to Universal Recycling Requirements*.

The Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, like other Chambers across the state, advocates for policies that grow the economy and make Vermont more affordable. We are concerned that the current mandates in the existing statute are overly burdensome and will have a negative impact on individuals and businesses.

We support S 285 and those provisions of S287 that eliminate the requirement that mid-sized, small amount and individual producers of food residuals, remove those residuals from the waste stream. We support the intent because the associated costs to businesses and consumers in the mandate effectively result in a new tax in the form of payments for required collections. Those increased costs to the businesses make those that choose to comply less competitive, and raise the cost of their goods and services, contributing to the high cost of living in Vermont.

Interestingly, on the environmental side under the current collection system, a portion of the state's organics are transported with rubbish to the landfill in Coventry. If we are trying to reduce carbon emissions' impacts, is it be prudent to add another waste stream with an additional commercial truck on our roads, collecting food scraps that then would mostly decay and off-gas to open air? At the landfill, under one waste stream, those organics produce methane and other gases that are captured, and converted into energy. This renewable energy generates power to some 7,000 homes. By mandating that organics be removed from the waste stream, that capability will be significantly degraded, and those homes will require a new energy source.

We also support these measures because the current mandate requires that many small businesses, particularly haulers, make capital investments in costly equipment. This forces the businesses to enter a very high-risk business sector, thus taking capital away from projects those businesses would otherwise choose to pursue to best solve Vermonter's problems, and make a profit doing so. If the food scrap business turns out to not be profitable, the business will suffer or fail, and who will make them whole? These unfunded mandates will discourage small business venture, reduce competition, and raise everyone's cost to live in Vermont.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I will be happy to entertain any questions that the Committee may have.