



NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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April 11, 2019

Rep. Carolyn W. Partridge, Chair
VT House Committee on Agriculture & Forestry

RE: Support of S160 – An Act Relating to Agricultural Development

Dear Representative Partridge:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD). The NEKWMD is comprised of 49 towns throughout the counties of Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Orleans, and Washington.

The NEKWMD Board approved a motion that would support the language in Section 19 – CERTIFICATION OF FARMS ACCEPTING FOOD RESIDUALS. This language allows a one-year period by which a determination can be made as to if, and how, farmers that raise chickens can or should be regulated in terms of food residual feeding. This is of special importance for our membership since over 50% of materials collected for composting in our District are managed by chicken farmers.

While our Board understands that waste management issues are not necessarily part of your committee's responsibility, we would also appreciate your consideration of additional initiatives our Board supports.

- The tiered diversion schedule for organic waste diversion from commercial generators of food waste should be maintained and enforced. The 2020 ban for residential organics should be removed.
- The hauler mandate to collect organic wastes should be eliminated.
- Wine bottles and other alcoholic beverages (hard cider) should be added to the bottle bill.
- Haulers should be allowed to charge a separate fee for recycling.
- Solid Waste Management Entities should not be required to divert sheetrock and asphalt shingles from landfill disposal.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Most sincerely,

Paul Tomasi
Executive Director