

Vermont Solid Waste District Managers Association

VSWDMA

Sen. Christopher Bray, Chair

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

RE: S.227 - Organics, Food Scraps, Readiness for 7/1/2020

Dear Senator Bray:

The Vermont Solid Waste District Managers Association sees the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy has taken testimony on the readiness of the State to meet the July 1, 2020 landfill ban on organics/food residuals.

The Vermont Solid Waste District Managers Association (VSWDMA) is comprised of 14 members – 10 Waste Districts, 4 Resource/Waste Alliances and one independent town. 566,954 residents in 233 towns are represented by their membership in the VSWDMA. The organization represents 91% of Vermont's total population.

The members of VSWDMA are in support of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) and are in favor of its full implementation. A near unanimous majority of VSWDMA members agree that the 2020 landfill ban on food scraps must be sustained. Solid Waste Management Entities have worked since the law passed to make sure the communities they serve are prepared for its full implementation and a significant amount of investment, public and private, has been made in collection and processing of organics. Some successful efforts include:

- Over 22,000 home composting units sold to Vermont households
- Over 260 backyard composting workshops conducted to teach proper composting
- Over 100 drop off points for food scraps developed throughout the state
- Provided direct outreach to over 2500 businesses about food waste diversion
- Worked with over 200 Vermont schools to help them divert food scraps
- At least six compost facilities developed with District funds or by partnering with others
- Four Districts have developed collection systems within their region including residential and commercial programs
- 58-72% of Vermonters already divert food scraps from the landfill

The VSWDMA also reached unanimous support for three other facets of waste management that may be considered by the committee in the remainder of the year including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging, EPR for Household Hazardous Waste, and support for full funding of the Department of Agriculture's unused pesticide disposal program.

Sincerely,

John Leddy, VSWDMA President