

**5-2-19**

**TO:** Representative Carolyn Partridge & The House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

**FROM:** Andrea Stander for Rural Vermont and The Poultry Farmers for Compost Foraging (PFCF)

**RE:** Proposed new language for S.160 on Poultry Forage/Compost – to be added to Sec. 17

It is the intent of this section to enable the continuation of the traditional farming practice of raising poultry on a compost forage that utilizes food residuals in support of Act 148. The goal is to provide adequate time for all the stakeholders: farmers, food residual producers & haulers, VAAFM, ANR, communities, and consumers to work together to develop recommendations for: changes to legislation, scale-appropriate regulatory procedures, and a framework for best management practices.

### **STAKEHOLDER PROCESS**

#### **Participants in the stakeholder process shall:**

- A. Include affected farmers, food residual producers, food residual haulers, municipal authorities, consumers, designated representatives of VAAFM, ANR, legislators and a qualified facilitator unaffiliated with any of the other stakeholders
- B. Have access to assistance from legislative council to assess and understand existing conflicts over regulatory jurisdiction and develop legislative, regulatory solutions
- C. Utilize sound, scientific reasoning to achieve objectives
- D. Work collaboratively to achieve interim solutions to any outstanding concerns on farms currently using this practice as of January 1, 2019

The time frame for this stakeholder process shall be from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 with a goal of presenting proposed legislative solutions to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees in January 2020.