



RE: Support for H.115

Dear Chair Sheldon and Committee Members,

January 27, 2022

The Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District is one of many in Vermont that does not have a permanent HHW facility and yet are required to collect and manage HHW in accordance with the State of Vermont, Solid Waste Implementation Plan. To do this we hire a local contractor to provide labor, vehicles, disposal containers, and supplies. This is what is commonly referred to as the "set-up" fee. Set-up fees only cover mobilizing the contractor's team on-site. Disposal fees for anything collected is above and beyond this base fee. Whether we collect 1 ton or 30 tons the set-up fee applies. Set-up fees have continued to rise at an alarming rate as seen in this table.

YEAR	SET-UP FEE	NUMBER OF HHW EVENTS	SET-UP FEES/YEAR
2018	\$2,650	3	\$7,950
2019	\$2,650	4	\$10,600
2020	\$4,250	2	\$8,500
2021	\$6,500	3	\$19,500
2022*	\$14,500	3	\$43,500

*\$5,750 for events with less than 100 cars; LRSWMD events average close to 200 cars

Last year, the total cost of our three HHW events was \$52,693 generating 21 tons of material for disposal which, simply put, equals \$2,509/ton. Comparatively, the current rate for transport and disposal of trash from our Stowe facility is \$90.61/ton. If residents and small businesses were asked to shoulder the cost of HHW collections those 21 tons of pesticides and flammable liquids would be slipped into trash bags and sent to Vermont's only operating landfill.

Not surprising, the large increase in set-up fees occurred during a time we are experiencing significant supply chain disruption, severe labor shortages, and the local HHW contractor being subsumed into a Chicago-based holding company. These dramatic increases in managing HHW are not likely to abated and are affected by factors well outside our control. Still, we are bound by the SWIP program to continue offering these events regardless of cost and affordability.

Therefore, we support H.115 to shift the cost of managing HHW to manufacturers which has proven to be successful and a widely accepted practice for electronics, batteries, paint, and other hazardous materials. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs also encourage reduction of waste and development of safer products resulting in a cleaner environment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Alexander".

Susan Alexander
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