

**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:57 PM

**To:** House Natural Resources

**Subject:** Request for legislative oversight of ANR action on Universal Recycling Law

**Dear Chairman Bray, Chairwoman Sheldon, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife:**

On behalf of nearly two dozen farmers, composters, nonprofit organizations, academic experts, and educators, I am submitting for your consideration the attached letter concerning the Agency of Natural Resources' misguided implementation of Vermont's vitally important Universal Recycling Law (URL).

Specifically, we believe that the Agency has begun implementing the Organics Management portion of the law in a manner that is contrary to the Legislature's intent. Adherence to the Organics Management Hierarchy established in law has been abandoned by the Agency in favor of an industrial practice known as depackaging.

We are deeply concerned about the implications of the Agency's embrace of industrial depackaging. Not only is this policy shift hurting local businesses that relied on the hierarchy, it is threatening to contaminate crop producing soils with harmful microplastics.

As a result, we are requesting a formal legislative review of the Organics Management Hierarchy and the Source Separation provision of the URL, and the Agency's current implementation of these sections.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to answer any questions you may.

Best,  
Paul Burns

Executive Director  
VPIRG