

Testimony of Amanda St. Pierre for Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance on H.434

- We support the new Board envisioned in the House passed bill of H.434. The Bill allows for a broader perspective with more technical assistance across the industry which will incorporate seed trait committee in their scope of work. .
- We support policy development based on practical and realistic applications and the pros and cons of pesticide use and use of alternative methods.
- We support a Board that looks to develop well thought out policy and engages the many industries that count on the use of new technology and new pesticides that have been developed and researched.
- Pesticides have a practical use which leads to better water quality, as dairy producers, we can offer valid input on how and why they are being applied.
- We need to take a more expansive approach as agriculture practices and other sectors have dramatically changed over the last decade. We cant keep thinking like we did 20 years ago, application and Ag practices have changed. We need the Ag Innovation Board to move forward and be “bright thinkers”. There are technologies and practices that have been introduced to be extremely sustainable and offer efficiencies that were not in place when we began in 1986. Can you imagine how much will be improved on in another 35 years. Our practices today offer reduction in our carbon footprint, we use less and have greater yields, we create practices that rebuild our soils and reduce and eliminate erosion with gps and high tech systems . The knowledge we have on our soils and how we can optimize and retain their valuable nutrients will keep our food systems in Vt sustainable for the future. This Board excites me as to what they will be able to deep dive into and understand.

In Closing, we would ask the Senate Ag Committee to support the one committee that is active and engaged, not multiple sub committees. Diversity on these boards helps reduce the amount of dissention when bills or legislation is requested because there is more information and buy in on proposals before they get placed in your committees for rulemaking

Thank you for your time this morning.
Amanda St Pierre
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Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance