

From: Janet Steward <greenfield1@myfairpoint.net>

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 9:47 AM

To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>; Mark MacDonald <MMacDonald@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Pearson <CPearson@leg.state.vt.us>; Randy Brock <RBrock@leg.state.vt.us>; Michael Sirotkin <msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Bray <CBray@leg.state.vt.us>; Ruth Hardy <RHardy@leg.state.vt.us>; Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>; greenfield1@myfairpoint.net

Subject: [External] Support S.1 for Ryegate Biomass plant – wood ash is good for soil health

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To the Committee:

I am writing in support of the continued operation of the Ryegate Biomass Plant. My husband and I own Shat Acres Highland Cattle, LLC DBA Greenfield Highland Beef. We have the oldest registered herd of Highland cattle in the United States, our first Highland cow purchased in 1966. We own two farms in Plainfield and Greensboro Bend, VT, and sell Registered Highland breeding stock and 100% Grass Fed and Finished Highland Beef.

Producing grass fed and finished beef in Vermont is challenging compared to most of the country, because we need to feed stored forage (hay) for eight months of the year. This is our largest operating expense. We focus on regenerative agriculture, rotational grazing and soil improvement. Much of Vermont's fields are run down and low in Ph, due to lack of care and management, as well as the expense of enhancements to improve soil condition and plant growth.

Being able to add wood ash to our fields has dramatically improved the soil and increased the quantity and quality of forage for our cattle. Wood ash has many benefits for the land over traditional lime and we are grateful to be able to access it locally produced, as the cost to truck it from out of state would be prohibitive. Without this wood ash our fields would not be able to produce the quality beef for Vermont consumers they have come to rely on, particularly during these challenging times.

Feel free to contact me with any questions and thank you for your service.

Stay well,
Janet Steward

Ray Shatney & Janet Steward

Shat Acres Highland Cattle

Greenfield Highland Beef

Since 1967

www.greenfieldhighlandbeef.com

If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one. Mother Theresa