

**From:** joanne chickering <joanne.chickering@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:08 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>

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

[External]

Dear Legislatures,

We are Kenneth Leach and Joanne Chickering of Sykes Hollow Land and Livestock located at 2710 VT Route 30 in North Rupert in the Mettowee Valley. We are writing in support of S.1 for the Ryegate Biomass plant. We transitioned our land to organic in 2018 and wood ash has been an integral part of the fertility program for us on pasture, hay ground and cropland. We milk fifty five cows and farm two hundred acres.

Wood ash is the main by product and a very important tool for organic farming as nutrients are hard to come by and often very expensive. We feel very fortunate to have chip plants in our state for energy production that support the wood industry for sustainable logging practices and the farming community for a local fertilizer product with a lot of organic matter in it for soil health.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kenneth Leach & Joanne Chickering