

Mad River Resource Management Alliance

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RE: Support for H. 67-An Act relating to household products containing hazardous substances

Dear Chair Sheldon, Vice Chair Sibilia and Members of the Committee

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.67. The Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA) is a Solid Waste Management Entity (SWME) formed by an Interlocal Agreement for the Management of Municipal Waste for the Town's of Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren and Waterbury. As an Alliance we are not able to generate revenue by putting a surcharge on solid waste generated in our SWME. Thus all of the revenue used to pay for our required minimum of two household hazardous waste events comes from a per capita fee raised by our member towns (currently \$7.00), grants applied for through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and charges to folks that generate larger amounts of household hazardous waste (HHW) or are from outside of the MRRMA.

In recent years the total amount of HHW collected in the MRRMA has increased to over 12.22 tons with over 8% public participation rates. The rise in HHW Collection is due in part to awareness of our hazardous waste disposal through our publicity campaigns for each event and folks wanting to do the right thing to manage these materials that they may have purchased but decided not to use due to publicity on potential hazards to their health and the environment. We also receive legacy household hazardous waste where a significant other has passed away or a property is being sold and a variety of household hazardous waste is discovered and needs to be disposed. Along with the rise in collection is the outsized rise in the cost to properly manage these HHWs. From 2018 to 2022 the cost for proper management of these materials has skyrocketed from \$40.18 per household to \$128.49 per household in the MRRMA. This is a greater than threefold increase in our cost to do the right thing. The rapidly rising cost for us to run this program is not sustainable. An EPR for HHW program would share the burden of costs and collection of these dangerous products with the manufacturers and would increase the sustainability of these important programs that divert dangerous chemicals from our landfills, soil, air and water not to mention in our homes, barns, garages and sheds. Vermont's five existing EPR programs are a testament to the practicality, success and sustainability of the concept.

H. 67 will work to cover the cost of the proper management of the household hazardous products that are packaged for consumer use in partnership with the SWME's collection events. The need is there and would be met through the development of a Stewardship Organization with the manufacturers of these products. Let's move forward to sustainably meet this need.

Thank you.

John Malter, Administrator