



RE: Support for H. 67

Chair Sheldon and Committee Members,

January 23, 2023

The Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District is one of many in Vermont that does not have a permanent HHW facility and yet are required to collect and manage HHW in accordance with the State of Vermont, Solid Waste Implementation Plan. To do this we hire a local contractor to provide labor, transportation, disposal containers, and supplies. This is what is commonly referred to as the "set-up" fee. Set-up fees only cover mobilizing the contractor's team on-site. Disposal fees for anything collected is above and beyond this base fee. Whether we collect 1 ton or 30 tons of HHW at an event the set-up fee applies. Set-up fees have continued to rise at an alarming rate as seen in this table.

YEAR	SET-UP FEE	NUMBER OF HHW EVENTS	SET-UP FEES/YEAR
2018	\$2,650	3	\$7,950
2019	\$2,650	4	\$10,600
2020	\$4,250	2	\$8,500
2021	\$6,500	3	\$19,500
2022	\$14,500	3	\$34,750*

*One event qualified for a reduced set-up fee of \$5,750 for less than 100 cars; LRSWMD events average close to 200 cars;

YEAR	TOTAL COST (set-up plus disposal)	TONS COLLECTED	COST/TON	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	COST PER PARTICIPANT
2021	\$52,693	21	\$2,509	772	\$68
2022	\$70,582	16	\$4,411	489	\$144

For comparison, the current rate for transport and disposal of trash from our Stowe facility is \$97.19/ton. If residents and small businesses were asked to shoulder the true cost of HHW collections those pesticides and flammable liquids would be slipped into trash bags and sent to Vermont's only operating landfill. Furthermore, it is important to note that the above costs consist solely of those fees paid to outside contractors and are exclusive of costs to LRSWMD for in-kind labor, advertising, equipment, and miscellaneous supplies. These dramatic increases in managing HHW are affected by factors well outside of our control. The local company we worked with back in 2018 was subsumed by a holding company and recently sold to Republic, the second largest waste management company in the US. Still, we are bound by the SWIP program to continue offering these events regardless of cost and affordability.

Therefore, LRSWMD supports H. 67 to shift the cost of managing HHW to manufacturers which has proven to be successful and a widely accepted practice for electronics, batteries, paint, and other hazardous materials. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs also have the additional benefit of encouraging reduction of waste and development of safer products resulting in a cleaner environment.

Respectfully submitted,

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