

Dear Chairman Durfee, Vice Chair Surprenant and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry:

In anticipation of H.484 arriving in your committee next week, I am writing on behalf of the Chittenden Solid Waste District to ask you to support sections 2 and 3 of the bill. These sections are the result of several years of work between the Agency of Agriculture, pesticide manufacturers, and solid waste districts and alliances, and are supported by all parties involved. H.484 will help keep one of the most toxic waste streams out of the environment and save taxpayers money.

Under the State's Solid Waste Implementation Plan, towns and cities are required to collect and properly manage hazardous waste from small businesses and residents, including pesticides. This is generally done by a [solid waste district or alliance](#) that oversees solid waste management on behalf of the town or city. Collecting unwanted hazardous waste is the most difficult and expensive program that we provide due to the complexity of the waste stream and regulations involved. CSWD spends close to \$1 million annually on its hazardous waste collection program. The hazardous waste that we collect is shipped out of state as far away as Texas where it is either incinerated, blended for fuel, or landfilled in a specially designed landfill for hazardous waste.

Pesticides are one of the more toxic materials that we collect and make up approximately 10% of the waste that we manage through our hazardous waste collection program.

Last year the legislature passed an extended producer responsibility (EPR) law for household hazardous waste that will help fund these programs. Pesticides are exempt from the law. The pesticide exemption was granted because the Vermont Agency of Agriculture has provided funding for solid waste districts and alliances to collect pesticides for many years. However, the amount of funding has not changed for many years while costs have increased significantly. CSWD receives funding for less than half the costs of collecting and disposing of pesticides.

We have been working with the Agency of Agriculture and the pesticide manufacturers for several years to increase the funding for collecting unwanted pesticides. H.484 is a result of this work and we are grateful that the manufacturers have agreed to increase the registration fee they pay to the Agency that will fully fund unwanted pesticide collection and disposal programs that municipalities are obligated to provide. We also think it is important to explore EPR as a long-term, sustainable funding solution, and we requested the EPR study (section 3) in the bill to support this goal.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jen Holliday (she/her)
Director of Public Policy & Communications
cell: (802) 324-0322