



Office of Board of Selectmen

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October 3, 2019

Representative Karen Ebel
Representative Megan Murray
Representative John O'Connor
Senator David Watters
New Hampshire General Court
LOB Room 201
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB617 Committee to Study Recycling Streams
And Solid Waste in New Hampshire

Dear Members of the Committee:

The Town of Belmont has been a member community in the CONCORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE / RESOURCE RECOVERY COOPERATIVE since its inception; in 2015 the Town chose to no longer deliver its waste to the Wheelabrator facility, a decision primarily made based on cost to the community, and entered into a contract with Casella for the collection and disposal of our solid waste and the collection of single stream recycling curbside. As Town Administrator for the past 14 years I have seen the volatility of the market rise and fall, however I believe the most recent issues facing the industry are the most serious.

The recycling market has taken a significant downturn, what used to be a revenue stream for communities is now an expense item. Municipal Solid Waste "trash" is not going away; science is not going to develop technology to eliminate trash therefore as a State we have to be proactive in exploring better ways to support recycling. Any recyclable we remove from the trash stream, reduces the waste going to a landfill. The other real concern facing our State is the need for long-term disposal facilities; with landfills nearing or at capacity, communities will be faced with large increases in the cost of disposal. Our proposed budget for the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and recycling is in excess of \$400,000, which translates to approximately .55 cents per thousand on the tax rate. The ability to sustain these costs becomes more difficult each year.

Solving this complex issue is going to take working together, state and local officials and private industry. State officials and State agencies need to be aware of the impact their decision making may have on the industry. Overburdening rules, regulation at the local level and more, could lead our State into a real "trash" problem.

Sincerely,

K. Jeanne Beaudin
Town Administrator