

Nate Biscotti

From: Martin LaLonde
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:28 AM
To: Nate Biscotti
Subject: Fw: [External] Right to Farm Extension Bill

And this one.

Representative, Chittenden 12, South Burlington, VT
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Chair, House Ethics Panel
martinlalondevt.com

From: Kate Brewer <kfs429@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:41 PM
To: Martin LaLonde <MLaLonde@leg.state.vt.us>; Tom Burditt <TBurditt@leg.state.vt.us>; Kevin Christie <KChristie@leg.state.vt.us>; Angela Arsenault <AArsenault@leg.state.vt.us>; Karen N. Dolan <KNDolan@leg.state.vt.us>; Ian Goodnow <igoodnow@leg.state.vt.us>; Kenneth Goslant <KGoslant@leg.state.vt.us>; Zachary Harvey <zharvey@leg.state.vt.us>; Alicia Malay <amalay@leg.state.vt.us>; Thomas Oliver <TOliver@leg.state.vt.us>; Barbara Rachelson <BRachelson@leg.state.vt.us>; Kayla Morse <KMorse@leg.state.vt.us>; Nader Hashim <NHashim@leg.state.vt.us>; morris@leg.state.vt.us <morris@leg.state.vt.us>; Tanya Vyhovsky <TVyhovsky@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Mattos <CMattos@leg.state.vt.us>; Philip Baruth <PBaruth@leg.state.vt.us>; Ruth Hardy <RHardy@leg.state.vt.us>; Steven Heffernan <sheffernan@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: [External] Right to Farm Extension Bill

[External]

Dear Committee Members,

I am a resident of Ferrisburgh, Vermont and my home is adjacent to Lake Champlain with a factory dairy farm very close by. Having grown up in Vermont, I have a healthy respect and appreciation for farmers. Unfortunately, not all farmers have a mutual respect for their neighbors and the environment. The farm that comprises much of Ferrisburgh and Panton is unfortunately a terrible example of responsible farm management, displaying a complete lack of respect for the land itself and pride/care of property. Even a casual observer cannot not help but notice the trash and junk left to rot throughout their farm. Worst of all, these farmers give Vermont farmers a bad name with their disregard for the health of the lake and our drinking water.

Since the installation of tile drains, the amount of chlorine required to treat our water has increased significantly. As a result, the levels of chloroform, a carcinogen, have increased by an alarming 50%. This Right to Farm Extension would allow more egregious actions from this factory farm which will only further the desecration of our drinking water and environment. Furthermore, we see the results of the increased flow from the farm fields on our property in the form of damaging erosion and contamination by the E-Coli and phosphorus content in the drainage water that crosses our land on its way to Lake Champlain. Our enjoyment of the lake has been drastically curtailed due to the increasing incidence of blue green algae caused by phosphorus overload. As a Realtor, I am concerned that all lakefront properties will have to disclose in their listings algae bloom frequency which will reduce property values. This will in turn reduce property tax revenue which is certainly not insignificant for lakefront properties.

For years we and our neighbors have implored the Vermont ANR and the Department of Agriculture to help with these problems, to no avail. The ANR has stated that it has little to no authority to correct these problems and Anson Tibbetts

the Secretary of the Dept of Agriculture stated that, "Anything that leaves the boundaries of the farm is not his concern." If the ANR is not responsible for keeping our water supply clean, who is? We are incredibly frustrated and saddened by this refusal to take responsibility and fear that the lake is suffering irreversible damage that will be hastened if the Right to Farm Extension Bill is passed. Passing this Extension Bill would result in continued poor practices that would hasten the degradation of our beautiful and important natural resource, Lake Champlain.

Thank you for your service and consideration of this important matter.

Kate Brewer
590 Arnold Bay Road
Ferrisburgh, Vermont

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