



Position/Comment Statement on:
State of Vermont Proposal for a Clean Lake Champlain

Submitted:
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To:

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From:

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Board:

Allan Hall, Chair
Steven Robinson, Vice Chair
Roger Rainville, Treasurer
Dwight Bullis, Supervisor
Rob Rousseau, Supervisor

Grand Isle County Natural Resources Conservation District (NRC) would like to affirm that in general we are in support of the proposals as outlined in the November 20th Draft State of Vermont Proposal for a Clean Lake Champlain.

There are a few specific Agricultural Programs that particularly impact the Island area farms that warrant further consideration:

- **Spreading Ban;** *revisit the spreading ban as the ever changing weather conditions (wetter springs and falls) are causing more water quality issues. Each farm needs to be assessed and nutrient waste applied according to the geography of the individual farms.*
- **Buffer Zones;** *we support buffer zones but the "one size fits all" method does not fit all. Buffer Zones should be incorporated at varying lengths on a field specific basis as necessary to be effective.*
- **Accepted Agricultural Practices;** *we are in full agreement that all farmers, regardless of farm size, should be following the AAP's. There is a great need for education and outreach to assure that all farmers know that the AAP's exist, what they are and who they apply to and that all farms are visited by trained personnel to provide information/implementation on AAP's.*
- **TMDL;** *we recognize that the phosphorus loading needs to be reduced and unequivocally support this effort.*

We are all in support of preserving and cleaning up our Lake Champlain and are confident that everyone is willing to work together towards this end.