

Good afternoon. My name is Tim Camisa. I am CEO of Vermont Organics Reclamation, a business based here in St. Albans that has strong agricultural and environmental missions.

First, I want to thank the EPA and state officials for holding these hearings in Franklin County today, and for giving us the opportunity to revisit some important topics about our watersheds, and Lake Champlain. Today, I'd like to address agricultural runoff.

For the past 10 years, there has been a line of thinking that we should encourage responsible manure spreading, in order to keep soils healthy, and simultaneously teach farmers ways to hold back runoff, to protect our watersheds.

While these efforts have been valiant, they have not been effective as we all hoped; otherwise, we wouldn't be sitting here today. Clearly, excess nutrients still damage our watersheds and, in turn, Lake Champlain. All the evidence you need is in a single blue-green algae bloom.

At Vermont Organics Reclamation, we propose a different way of thinking: phosphorous removal and export. Vermont Organics can purchase 20 percent of a single farmer's manure and phosphorous load.

We then use those excess nutrients to create an organic line of soil amendments.

Vermont Organics is in its third year of production and has just secured two major, national accounts, which means we are going to start exporting phosphorous in significant amounts, starting in 2014. Our manufacturing process also has mobile capability, which has sparked interest from more farmers that want to participate.

Vermont Organics offers a free, manure cleanup program for farmers, while exporting phosphorous from our watersheds, at no cost to taxpayers. And we are not about regulating or blaming farmers. We are about helping them with their nutrient management plans before those nutrients can reach runoff.

Why wait, when we have a cost-free, phosphorous export program sitting in front of us right now?

Before I close, I'd like to tell you about a phone call I received over the summer, from a Michigan businessman who works in the dairy industry.

"What do the farmers pay for your service?" he asked.

"Pay?" I said. "I pay the farmer."

He was shocked. "You pay the farmer? Out here, the farmers pay us. They want this stuff gone."

If you'd like to discuss Vermont Organics further, you can reach me at 802-528-8512, and visit our Web site at vermontorganics.com.

Thank you for your time and interest today.