

From: leont@vermontorganics.com [<mailto:leont@vermontorganics.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:29 AM

To: Mears, David

Cc: Tim Camisa

Subject: from Leon Thompson: a letter from Tim Camisa, at Vermont Organics Reclamation Inc., St. Albans

(Hi, Mr. Mears. I hope you're well. Please see the letter below from Tim Camisa, CEO of Vermont Organics Reclamation Inc. - Leon Thompson)

David:

I write today (1/28/14) regarding Stephen Perkins' letter dated Jan. 17, 2014, to Vermont Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross and David Mears, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation commissioner.

I am CEO of Vermont Organics Reclamation (VOR) Inc., a St. Albans business that purchases excess manure and nutrients from farmers – including phosphorous – and uses those materials to make an organic line of soil amendments. Through continuous, natural development, we have created a phosphorous export program that helps farmers and our watersheds. (Please learn more at www.vermontorganics.com.) I have read Mr. Perkins' preliminary reaction to the "State of Vermont Proposal for a Clean Lake Champlain" and would like to respond with some questions and comments.

First, what will be the format and process for displaying public comments that were presented to EPA and state officials at hearings held in Vermont during December, 2013? Also, how do EPA and state officials propose to categorize or rank ideas and projects they heard at the hearings and plug them into an EPA-ready plan? (Again, I appreciate have the opportunity to speak at two of those sessions. Thank you.)

Secondly, officials at those hearings presented a handful of ideas for addressing agricultural runoff, including – but not limited to – livestock access, erosion gullies, and manure injection. I am wondering how the state plans to quantify potential phosphorous reductions with these methods, and at what cost. What will be the results from them, and what is the potential investment needed for them?

I would like to remind you that VOR has tested and proven a mobile processing scenario. With this system, VOR could remove thousands of yards of solids containing phosphorous from 20 to 30 farms in a single season, and pay those farms tens of thousands of dollars in that season (at a rate of \$6-\$8 per yard).

I would like to pose a friendly, genuine reminder that VOR is available to you and your colleagues as a resource during the EPA process, especially as you try to meet your next set of deadlines in March and April. We are already removing excess phosphorous from farms before it even reaches runoff, and we believe this is an important factor as state and federal officials move forward this year, for the benefit of Lake Champlain.

I encourage you to reach out to me at anytime. My phone numbers are: 802-528-8512 (VOR's offices) and 802-373-2025. My e-mail address is timc@vermontorganics.com. You can also reach VOR's public affairs specialist, Leon Thompson, at the office number listed above, or at leont@vermontorganics.com.

We are always open to visitors who want to see our operation in action, and learn more about our agricultural and environmental missions. Thank you again for taking on this huge task. I appreciate all your time and effort.

Sincerely,
Tim Camisa
CEO, Vermont Organics Reclamation Inc.