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From: Diana Carpinone <d.carpinone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:30 AM
To: City Council - All
Subject: Curbside Weed Control Bids Vote

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Dear Mayor Carrier and Council,

I urge you to vote for option C this Wednesday when approving a bid for curbside weed control.

In the past the city has used glyphosate to control curbside weeds on approximately 30 miles throughout the city. Last year, the city staff purchased a steam weeding machine, coming up with a custom retrofit for mobility, but this did not meet the needs of the city for various reasons.

This attempt by city staff to eliminate the use of herbicide is extremely commendable, hopefully that machine will continue to be used for weed control and other purposes.

I strongly urge the Council not to deviate from the previous years progress by going back to synthetic herbicides. Esplanade 200 (Indaziflam) and Reward (diquat dibromide) are NO SAFER than glyphosate. Your resolution materials make a note that the EPA states that neither of these are shown to cause cancer. The same statement is made by the EPA regarding glyphosate. Besides that, cancer is [not the only harmful consequence](#) of pesticide use. A switch to Reward and Esplanade would be a textbook case of regrettable substitution. Synergy between these two active ingredients [has been documented](#). This means the combination of chemicals greatly amplifies their toxicity. Choosing option A would be a big step backward.

The city of Portsmouth violates their own organic policy by using synthetic herbicide products. This is not something we should wish to emulate. We can do better. In fact, this year we could step out ahead of Portsmouth by going fully organic for both turf grass and curbside weed control.

For the last two years, the Council has voted for bids in direct violation of our commitment to organic land management resolution unanimously voted for in February 2017. You made a commitment to Dover residents that you would put the health of our community first. It's time to live up to that promise now.

Please vote for Option C on Agenda Item #: 13.B.2, Curbside Weed Control.

Stay safe and be well,

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