



Thomas Gunter <thomasgunter@utah.gov>

winter inversion air pollution

1 message

Kaylie Astin [REDACTED]

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To: "thomasgunter@utah.gov" <thomasgunter@utah.gov>

Dear Mr. Gunter,

I recently read a summary of the DAQ's 2017 State of the Environment Report and learned that 75 percent of PM 2.5 pollution derives from ammonium nitrate. If the fertilization of our fields leads to such heavy pollution that it causes up to 2,000 premature deaths per year along the Wasatch Front, it seems ironic that the production of the very food we depend upon for nourishment is slowly killing so many of us.

In both developing and developed nations, food waste is another huge problem. Industrialized countries waste up to 40 percent of the food they produce.

In Utah, could we work toward solving both problems with a partnership between the industries that produce the food and the industries that serve it?

In France, grocery stores that sell food are now prohibited by law from throwing out food waste. They now depend on food bank networks to distribute nearly expired food to the poor.

In Utah, what if we created a similar partnership between restaurants and farmers? Instead of throwing out unsuitable food, it could be used as a fertilizer though composting. Grocery stores could distribute their unused food to local farmers. Composting businesses could also get involved. That way, many industries could benefit. And our air would be cleaner.

Utah prides itself on being a leader in creating a business-friendly environment. That environment is considerably less friendly when it creates inversion that is harmful to its citizens. We've already had businesses leave the state because of environmental issues. If we could successfully encourage polluting industries to help each other, we could be a leader in both showing our commitment to clean air and to promoting mutually beneficial business interests.

Thank you for your interest.

Kaylie Astin
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