

**25 ORGANIZATIONS SIGN ON TO
LETTER TO LEGISLATORS REGARDING VERMONT'S
LOW-INCOME ELECTRIC RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT**



March 12, 2024

To the Members of the House Committee on Environment and Energy:

To help Vermont meet our climate requirements both equitably and effectively, we need regulatory protections to ensure that low-income Vermonters can afford to invest in their electric bills and can choose cleaner, healthier electric options.

As we move toward using more electricity for heating, cooling, and transportation, households already struggling with high energy costs will need support and cost-mitigation measures to keep total monthly energy costs low. As electric bills invariably rise as we transition to beneficial electrification – but overall fossil fuel heating and transportation bills go down – Vermont must put protections in place, like those already offered in many other states, to help mitigate the rising cost of electricity and maximize the financial benefits of dramatic reductions in fossil fuel heating and transportation needs.

H.668 is a first step toward ensuring that all Vermonters can afford cleaner electric options. This bill would require the Public Utility Commission to develop draft legislation for a low-income electric ratepayer protection program that is administered and funded on a statewide basis. The bill does not propose a program itself. Rather, it requires the PUC to undertake a study examining current ratepayer protection programs so we can decide what is needed in Vermont.

The more we shift away from using fossil fuels to cleaner electricity in our buildings and for transportation, the more we need to help more Vermonters access affordable, efficient clean energy. Please share this information and support H.668 to design an effective, equitable low-income ratepayer protection program in Vermont.

Thank you.

Signed,

350VT
BROC Community Action
Capstone Community Action
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
Northeast Kingdom Community Action
Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO)
Regeneration Corps
Renewable Energy Vermont
Rights and Democracy
Seeding Power

Sierra Club Vermont
Slingshot
Sunrise Movement Champlain Valley
Third Act VT
Upper Valley Affinity Group
Vermont AFL-CIO
Vermont Climate and Health Alliance
Vermont Community Thermal Networks
Vermont Conservation Voters
Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition
Vermont Interfaith Action
Vermont Interfaith Power and Light
Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Vermont Peace/Antiwar Coalition
VPIRG