



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Oct.16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Ethan Allen Room

Members Present: Sens. Bray, Lyons, and MacDonald; Reps Klein and Sullivan

Staff Present: Aaron Adler, Legislative Counsel
Christine Gilhuly, Committee Assistant

Witnesses Present: Janet Milne, Prof., Vermont Law School (VLS)

Chair Rep. Klein convened the meeting.

Mr. Adler provided an overview of two pending bills related to carbon management, H.395 and H.412, each of which would establish a carbon pollution tax. Mr. Adler also discussed the relationship of the energy efficiency entities to carbon management, including H.395's proposal to use a portion of the proceeds to increase the delivery of thermal efficiency by those entities. He also provided the committee with the approved efficiency utility budgets for the period 2015-2017.

Prof. Milne, the Director of the Environmental Tax Policy Institute at VLS, discussed the role of taxation in carbon management. Topics included the potential goals and effects of taxing carbon emissions, carbon taxes instituted in other jurisdictions and how those taxes are structured, and a comparison of carbon taxation and cap and trade. She responded to questions from the committee.

On motion of Rep. Sullivan, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of its meeting of Sep. 30, 2015.

The committee discussed next steps. The committee seeks more information related to the benefits provided by the efficiency utilities and discussed the kind of information to be requested. The committee asked counsel to prepare a list of questions based on the committee discussion for the members to review. Requests for information will then be sent to the appropriate agencies or entities.

The committee likely will meet next after the legislative session convenes and staff will work with the members to find a date during the week of January 11, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Adler".

Aaron Adler,
Committee Counsel