

I AM REP. JIM MCCULLOUGH OF WILLISTON

THANK YOU MR. CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

I AM HERE TO TESTIFY ON S.134, **proposing to repeal the delinquent property tax penalty.**

WILLISTON DID THIS ALREADY. I LOVE MY TOWN. THIS IS PART OF THE FABRIC THAT INDICATES, "WILLISTON GETS IT."

MY STORY:

- MY FAMILY FARM IS 500+ A. IT INCLUDES ONE LARGE GOV. CHITTENDEN MANSION AND THREE FARM WORKER RESIDENCES.
- MY BRIDE AND I INHERITED THE FARM... IT CAME WITHOUT \$

MY PROBLEM:

PRIOR TO WILLISTON'S TAX PENALTY ENLIGHTENMENT WE WERE SOMETIMES LATE WITH OUR TAX PAYMENT AS THE WEATHER IS SOMETIMES UNFAVORABLE TO OUR BUSINESS.

THE RESULT WAS A PENALTY. THIS ADDED MORE \$ TO A TAX LIABILITY WHICH WE COULD NOT AFFORD. ADDITIONALLY IT WAS THE TOWN PRACTICE AT THE TIME THAT "DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS" BE RECORDED IN THE TOWN WARNING. THIS ADDED INSULT TO INJURY.

I URGE THIS COMMITTEE TO RECOGNIZE FINANCIALLY MARGINALIZED VERMONTERS' DESIRE TO PAY THEIR OBLIGATION ON TIME, WHILE PROTECTING THEM FROM INAPPROPRIATE FEES AND PENALTIES.

THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING WILLISTON'S GOOD EXAMPLE!

REPRESENTATIVE JIM MCCULLOUGH