

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 21

House resolution requesting the Shumlin administration and the Attorney General to release certain e-mails

Offered by: Representatives Pearson of Burlington, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Davis of Washington, Gonzalez of Winooski, and Haas of Rochester

Whereas, trust is the foundation of effective public service, and

Whereas, transparency is essential for establishing and maintaining that trust with Vermonters of all political persuasions, and

Whereas, in questions that concern vast amounts of money, issues of transparency are especially important, and

Whereas, Vermont took a unique role as administrator of the Vermont EB-5 program, and

Whereas, the administration asked that e-mails be deleted, including e-mails of personnel who played various roles in the EB-5 projects, and

Whereas, the EB-5 projects scandal is the subject of State and federal investigations, and

Whereas, the administration asserts that the e-mails it was attempting to delete are unrelated to any EB-5 investigations, and

Whereas, the administration has now said it wishes to release to the public the e-mails it was attempting to delete, and

Whereas, 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(14) gives the Attorney General discretion to release documents relevant to pending litigation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body requests Attorney General Sorrell to exercise his discretion to authorize release of the e-mails that the administration had attempted to delete because the damage to the public's trust in government that the attempted deletion has caused far outweighs any speculative harm that release of the e-mails might cause to pending court cases, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body requests the administration to make public the e-mails it was attempting to delete, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body requests the administration to deliver the e-mails it had attempted to delete to the House Committee on Government Operations on or before May 2, 2016, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Administration and to the Attorney General.