

What follows is my entreaty which I sent individually to the members of the Committee on Environment & Energy:

I'm writing to encourage you to consider these two bills and to vote to pass them out of committee. Both of these bills would make progress in allowing people in Vermont to live more ecologically and with a smaller negative environment impact. Currently, the law (administrative regulations) for residential water and wastewater mandates a one-size-fits-all approach, yet a good number of Vermonters want to have a greater tangible relationship with their local ecology, to live more simply, and to have less expensive housing. In fact, many people are living this way, but without bringing much attention to themselves, as can be partially deduced by the number of people living in yurts and rustic cabins in our state.

H.164 drew inspiration from Maine's regulations, which allow for simpler, low-impact lifestyles pertaining to water & wastewater. The VT DEC has not been welcoming of changing their Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules to incorporate similar allowances. Hence, H.164 has been created to require the DEC to do so.

H.163 takes a thoughtful approach that will involve many different stakeholders in order to create a thorough set of Best Management Practices related to low-flow greywater and eco-sanitation systems, which also will necessitate the DEC to amend their Rules.

Both bills will give great value to Vermonters trying to live simply, naturally, harmlessly, affordably.

Sincerely,
Tom Mosakowski
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