



February 23, 2023

Senator Jane Kitchel
Senate Appropriations Committee
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT

Re: SUPPORT S. 5 – Affordable Heat Act

Dear Chairwoman Kitchel,

The Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Coalition) writes in SUPPORT of S. 5, which would establish a clean heat standard in Vermont.

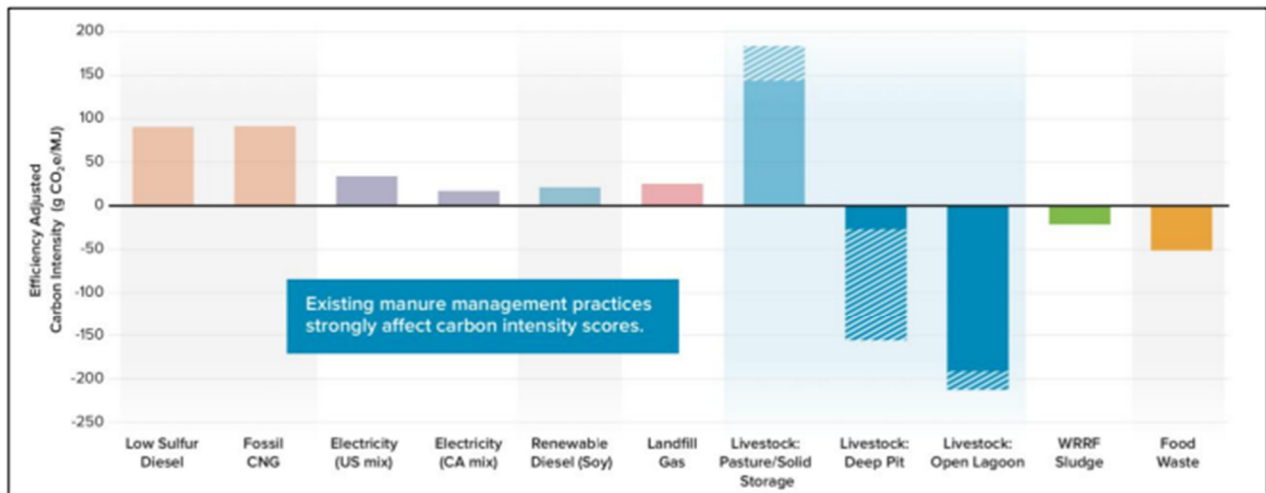
We represent and provide public policy advocacy and education for the RNG industry across North America. Our organization comprises over 350 members—cities, counties, airports, ports, municipalities, colleges, universities, and leading companies operating in each sector of the industry—including those who capture, clean and condition greater than 95% of all RNG in the United States and Canada.

Vermont’s thermal sector is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and primarily supported by fossil fuels. Thermal decarbonization is an imperative for continued emissions reductions and, most importantly, it’s achievable. RNG is an important near-term decarbonization strategy for applications, such as heating, that rely on fossil fuels and, in the long-term, RNG use will be necessary in applications that are not well-suited to electrification. We believe that Vermont should encourage the development of RNG in tandem with other technologies that will be required to fully decarbonize its thermal sector.

As a component of a clean heat standard, RNG would result in compound benefits through 1) the displacement of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion, 2) the critical near-term greenhouse gas benefits of increased methane capture and destruction, and 3) additional environmental benefits resulting from improved organic waste management.

Additionally, as illustrated in the chart below, provided by Argonne National Laboratory¹, some RNG pathways provide very low carbon intensity (CI) scores due to captured emissions that would otherwise emit into the atmosphere. Some feedstocks under certain conditions can yield negative CI scores, such as the case with biomethane captured from dairy farms with open manure lagoons, which provides the benefit of decreasing the carbon intensity of hard-to-displace fuels.

¹ https://www.anl.gov/sites/www/files/2020-11/RNG_for_Transportation_FAQs.pdf



Some RNG pathways have very low carbon intensity (CI) scores because they capture emissions that would otherwise be released to the atmosphere. For farms with manure lagoons that currently emit high levels of methane, RNG production can yield negative CI scores. Diagonal lines in bars represent the *range* of carbon intensity scores that can be achieved with corresponding RNG projects. (CA = California; CNG = compressed natural gas; CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent; g = gram; LFG = landfill gas; MJ = megajoule; RD = renewable diesel; WRRF = water resource recovery facility.) (ANL GREET)

Vermont will benefit greatly from a well-rounded clean heat standard that considers both short- and long-term decarbonization strategies and how best to utilize complimentary technologies to achieve near- and long-term climate goals, which is why the RNG Coalition respectfully requests your SUPPORT on S. 5.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dana Adams
 Legislative Policy Manager
 Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas