

April 17, 2014

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy hearing on H.329, Draft 9.1

My name is Put Blodgett. I am currently serving as president of the Vermont Woodlands Association and as co-chair of the Current Use Tax Coalition.

On page 5, lines 4 and 5, I am concerned about “no management activity report shall be received later than March 1”.

Most Vermont forest landowners have less than 100 acres and their forest management plans call for harvesting every 12-15 years. We all are aware of April 15, but to expect forest landowners to remember to file a management activity report February 1 every 12-15 years is counting on better memories than most of us have. A one-month extension to March 1 does nothing to jog that memory.

Would this committee give consideration to something like “After providing 30 days notice to the owner, the Director shall remove from use value appraisal an entire parcel of managed forest land and notify the owner when the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has not received a required management activity report”?

On page 11, line 21, “ed” should be added to the word “reach”.