

Katie and Senator Hartwell,

I want to thank you for making time for me to testify on S201 and S292 tomorrow. As it turns out, due to other commitments, I am not going to be able to make it to Montpelier tomorrow to testify on these bills, and hoped that you might share some general observations with the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

While I appreciate your intent to encourage more participation in the siting process, I do not think you should do anything that will hinder expanded development of renewable power in Vermont. The public already has numerous opportunities to participate in the town planning process through participating on the planning commission or the energy committee that assists in writing the energy chapter, or going to their planning meetings or to open public meetings on drafts of the plan.

We are woefully behind pace to reach our climate change goals, in regards to deployment of renewables. I am concerned that additional hurdles in these bills will only further slow down that process of change. I have read over Jamie Ervin's testimony submitted yesterday and concur with her suggestions. I encourage you to do what you can to make sure these bills expand, rather than slow down the developments of renewables in Vermont.

Thank you again for inviting me and for all your hard work on behalf of Vermont.

Sincerely,

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