

RESET great name. Time to RESET our renewable energy programs.

Renewable energy costs more. SPEED effectively hid the real cost of renewable energy from Vermonters. Time for an honest energy policy for Vermonters.

*Recommend repealing SPEED and taking time to establish new policies that include a new process for siting, with new standards.*

At a minimum, the passage of this bill make it clear to Vermonters what bargain they are being asked to accept to keep their electric bills down. Sheffield, Lowell, Georgia Mountain and many solar installations throughout the state including SunCommon Community Solar Arrays are providing “renewable energy” to Massachusetts and Connecticut, not Vermonters. If Vermonters want the power from projects already built, they will have to pay more for it.

*Recommend adding language requiring utilities to create programs that enable Vermonters to voluntarily pay more for renewable energy, similar to CVPS cow power, to encourage the retirement of high value RECs. Vermonters want renewable power, why not give them the opportunity to pay more and retire the RECs so people get real renewable energy?*

*Recommend adding language requiring full disclosure of ownership of Renewable Energy Credits in all promotional materials, applications for CPGs, and CPG approvals, and any signs at project sites.*

*Recommend adding language that creates vastly more transparency with the public. This transparency can be achieved by real time web-based dashboards such as Northern Power System has for some of its NPS 100s. SCADA data should be required to be available at all times for all utility scale renewables.*

½ a bill. Utilities, developers, renewable energy advocates. Other half communities and the people who live with the results.

This bill is more of the same. Perpetuates the disconnect between utilities/rates and consumers. Old school model. Parental – utilities will do what’s best for ratepayers.

Distributed generation creates new opportunities to connect consumers directly to generation.

Squandering that opportunity, resulting in imbalance that benefits utilities and developers at the expense of our communities and state’s aesthetics. Unsustainable.

Focus on (“obsession” with) low cost. Like fossil fuel industry, renewable industry is externalizing costs. Need to look at the whole picture. Devalued properties,

divided communities (wind), degraded aesthetics (wind and solar) reduced quality of life and health. Environmental degradation.

Over time, expect reduced grand lists as property values decline. Already seeing it around wind projects, with sales below listed and town assessed value in Albany and Sutton, and numerous properties that have been on the market with no sales. Do not be blind to this, because the dollars will add up over time. Solar has resulted in litigation already (Suncommon/New Haven). First thing people who are hit with a solar project plunked down in their neighborhood say is "I am concerned about my property values." These policies come with real costs that have not been evaluated or taken into consideration.

Wind energy's negative impacts must be evaluated and addressed before any more big wind turbines are erected. There is ongoing harm. Deal with the sacrifice zones.

Vermont's reputation for strong communities and protection of aesthetics has taken a huge hit under the SPEED/Standard Offer program.

Standard Offer not working for our communities. Site selected, locked in, PSB process becomes a rubber stamp.

Nothing innovative about solar development in Vermont with few exceptions.

PSB continues to have its authority usurped by the legislature - 3 sections of bill, recommend deleting them

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16           (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an electric distribution  
17 utility subject to rate regulation under this chapter shall be entitled to recover  
18 in rates its prudently incurred costs in applying for and seeking any certificate,  
19 permit, or other regulatory approval issued or to be issued by federal, State, or  
20 local government for the construction of new renewable energy to be sited in

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1 Vermont, regardless of whether the certificate, permit, or other regulatory  
2 approval ultimately is granted.

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7           (3) To encourage joint efforts on the part of electric distribution utilities  
8 to support renewable energy and to secure stable, long-term contracts  
9 beneficial to Vermonters, the Board may establish standards for preapproving  
10 the recovery of costs incurred on a renewable energy plant that is the subject of  
11 that joint effort, if the construction of the plant requires a certificate of public  
12 good under section 248 of this title and all or part of the electricity generated  
13 by the plant will be under contract to the utilities involved in that joint effort.

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7           (r) The Board may provide that in any proceeding under subdivision  
8 (a)(2)(A) of this section for the construction of a renewable energy plant, a  
9 demonstration of compliance with subdivision (b)(2) of this section, relating to  
10 establishing need for the plant, shall not be required if all or part of the  
11 electricity to be generated by the plant is under contract to one or more  
12 Vermont electric distribution companies and if no part of the plant is financed  
13 directly or indirectly through investments, other than power contracts, backed  
14 by Vermont electricity ratepayers. In this subsection, “plant” and “renewable  
15 energy” shall be as defined in section 8002 of this title.

This type of provision takes discretion from PSB and limits what intervenors can impact. We need provisions beyond this since even if there is a need for the resource it should be developed consistent with local and regional plans that are intended to promote development in the right locations. Legislature should give low impact solar a leg up so that developers are encouraged to do more roof top and low

impact projects and not just develop the first green field they can get their hands on and we should not promote clearing forested land for solar.

At the same time, too much has been given to the PSB that is not their area of expertise and which they are doing badly (Quechee Analysis). No enforcement.

Better process to let the PSB do what it is intended to do, rates, need, reliability, interconnection.

Act 250 for land use, utilize infrastructure,

- district coordinator,
- database,
- stakeholder identification,
- enforcement

create new process within that infrastructure that enables people to sit down together and work on developing renewable energy in a positive way.

New energy demands new process with new standards. "Siting" has two steps

- 1 process
- 2 standards

Too much fighting, more opposition developing all the time, will continue to be contentious and that is totally unnecessary. Vermonters want renewable energy, they want it in their communities, they want to be able to buy into it, and right now feel completely left out, except to have to deal with the negative impacts of poor sites and aggressive developers.