



Building Performance Professionals
Association of Vermont

BPPA-VT

Vermont's Authorities on Energy Efficiency

PO Box 8125, Brattleboro, VT 05304 • 802-522-4677 • www.BPPA-VT.org

**Testimony on H.40
Vermont State House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy**

February 6, 2015

Jonathan Dancing, Ex. Director
BPPA-VT
Building Performance Professionals Asso. of Vermont

Opening Statement

Now that we have decided that it is critical to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and insure energy security, we move on to put in place policy and programs to support those goals.

After these 2 steps are taken, we then need people who are able to work on the ground to do the actual mechanical work.

- Install heat pumps and heat pump water heaters
- Design and install renewable energy generation systems
- And,
do the difficult work of improving the building envelopes.
We need people who are certified to do this work and are willing to take personal responsibility for proper function of the systems and ultimately for the health and safety of their customers.

The people who do this work are small business owners who have invested all of their personal resources in establishing and growing their businesses.

- They are the ones who know how to do the mechanical work that actually results in delivering the economic and environmental benefits we are all after.
- They are the ones who we depend on to “get it right” and, in the end, to guarantee the work.
- In the mix of stakeholders who are invested in energy transformation, these contractors have the most personal exposure, i.e. the most to lose if things fall apart or are not sustainable.

These contractors are dependent on those who generate policy and design programs, to do so in a way that supports their efforts to grow and manage their businesses, create financial equity, offer quality employment and still be able to deliver excellent mechanical work and customer service.



Building Performance Professionals
Association of Vermont

BPPA-VT

Vermont's Authorities on Energy Efficiency

PO Box 8125, Brattleboro, VT 05304 • 802-522-4677 • www.BPPA-VT.org

House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

H.40

Testimony February 6, 2015

Jonathan Dancing

Executive Director BPPA-VT (Building Performance Professionals of VT)

BPPA-VT Organization Background

A trade association representing the interests of certified building performance contractors.

These are trades people who, because of their dedication to reducing carbon emissions and to freeing up the significant economic benefits that can be seen through improvement of energy efficiency, have chosen to build businesses that deliver the services that reduce energy use.

Services include:

- Energy audits
- Building energy use consultation
- Building envelope improvements (air-sealing and insulation retrofits)
- Building environment health and safety assessment and monitoring.

60 businesses with a total of 150-200 employees registered with the Efficiency Vermont Home Performance with Energy Star program.

BPPA members, entirely through personal investment, have built infrastructure and capacity in anticipation of state commitment to action that would contribute to meeting the state's goals for improving the thermal efficiency of Vermont's buildings. Lack of action and public investment over the last few years has led to stagnation in the building performance industry and Vermont continues to lag far behind in the achievement of these goals.

Building Performance Contractors are ready and able to weatherize many more buildings across the state. Policy that would support energy transformation and set us on track to meet state goals would result in industry growth and potential quality employment for up to 1000 additional workers.

BPPA-VT supports H.40 in principle

- H.40 has the potential provide the impetus for building a sustained and effective industry around improving building performance in Vermont.
- BPPA members work directly with customers and can bring experience and knowledge to bear to insure that energy improvements are done cost-effectively to save customers money while also not costing the utilities too much in terms of incentives.
- BPPA members appreciate and support
 - That the utilities are strongly encouraged to work with partners to meet their goals.
 - There is a focus in the bill on innovative technology and business models

Critical Points of Consideration in Program Development

- The cost of energy efficiency improvements continues to be a barrier to many building owners. Broad access to utility financing/on-bill repayment would be significant in helping to achieve Vermont's energy efficiency goals.

- Indiscriminant installation of heat pumps will cause immeasurable problems in heating buildings and would ultimately be a waste of money and resources.

Heat pumps work most efficiently in buildings with high-performing building shells.

We should only support strategic electrification through heat pump technologies when coupled with air sealing and added insulation improvements.

This is an opportunity to capitalize on the implementation of our building energy rating and labeling initiative developed under Vermont's legislative Act 89, based on the U.S. DOE Home Energy Score.

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/topics/energy_efficiency/buildingenergy_labeling

- To ensure all projects serve state goals and protect customers' health and safety, programs must require that implementation and oversight be done by certified contractors.

Thank you.

Jonathan Dancing

BPPA-VT

Building Performance Professionals Association of Vermont

JDancing@BPPA-VT.org

www.BPPA-VT.org

PO Box 8125

Brattleboro, VT 05304

802-552-4677