

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred
3 House Bill No. 789 entitled “An act relating to forest integrity and municipal
4 and regional planning” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as
6 follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 1 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to
8 read:

9 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 4302(c) is amended to read:

10 (c) In addition, this chapter shall be used to further the following specific
11 goals:

12 * * *

13 (6) To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife, forests,
14 and other land resources.

15 * * *

16 (C) Vermont’s forestlands should be managed so as to maintain and
17 improve forest blocks and habitat connectors.

18 * * *

1 (9) To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

2 (A) Strategies to protect long-term viability of agricultural and ~~forest~~
3 ~~lands~~ forestlands should be encouraged and should include maintaining low
4 overall density.

5 * * *

6 Second: By striking out Secs. 3 and 4 and inserting in lieu thereof new
7 Secs. 3 and 4 to read:

8 Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(2) is amended to read:

9 (2) A land use element, which shall consist of a map and statement of
10 present and prospective land uses, that:

11 (A) ~~indicating~~ Indicates those areas proposed for forests, recreation,
12 agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in
13 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public, and semi-public uses,
14 open spaces, areas reserved for flood plain, and areas identified by the State,
15 regional planning commissions, or municipalities, ~~which~~ that require special
16 consideration for aquifer protection; for wetland protection; for the
17 maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors; or for
18 other conservation purposes;

19 (B) ~~indicating~~ Indicates those areas within the region that are likely
20 candidates for designation under sections 2793 (downtown development

1 districts), 2793a (village centers), 2793b (new town centers), and 2793c
2 (growth centers) of this title;

3 (C) ~~indicating~~ Indicates locations proposed for developments with a
4 potential for regional impact, as determined by the regional planning
5 commission, including flood control projects, surface water supply projects,
6 industrial parks, office parks, shopping centers and shopping malls, airports,
7 tourist attractions, recreational facilities, private schools, public or private
8 colleges, and residential developments or subdivisions;

9 (D) ~~setting~~ Sets forth the present and prospective location, amount,
10 intensity, and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or
11 sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of
12 necessary community facilities and services;

13 (E) ~~indicating~~ Indicates those areas that have the potential to sustain
14 agriculture and recommendations for maintaining them which may include
15 transfer of development rights, acquisition of development rights, or farmer
16 assistance programs.

17 (F) Indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and
18 habitat connectors and plans for land development in those areas to minimize
19 forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function
20 of forests. A plan may include specific policies to encourage the active
21 management of those areas for wildlife habitat, water quality, timber

1 production, recreation, or other values or functions identified by the regional
2 planning commission.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 4. 24 V.S.A. § 4382(a)(2) is amended to read:

5 (2) A land use plan:

6 ~~(A) consisting of,~~ which shall consist of a map and statement of
7 present and prospective land uses, that:

8 ~~(A) indicating~~ Indicates those areas proposed for forests, recreation,
9 agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in
10 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public, and semi-public uses,
11 and open spaces, areas reserved for flood plain, and areas identified by the
12 State, the regional planning commission, or the municipality that require
13 special consideration for aquifer protection; for wetland protection; for the
14 maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors; or for
15 other conservation purposes;

16 (B) ~~setting~~ Sets forth the present and prospective location, amount,
17 intensity, and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or
18 sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of
19 necessary community facilities and service;

20 (C) ~~identifying~~ Identifies those areas, if any, proposed for designation
21 under chapter 76A of this title, together with, for each area proposed for

1 designation, an explanation of how the designation would further the plan's
2 goals and the goals of section 4302 of this title, and how the area meets the
3 requirements for the type of designation to be sought.

4 (D) Indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and
5 habitat connectors and plans for land development in those areas to minimize
6 forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function
7 of forests. A plan may include specific policies to encourage the active
8 management of those areas for wildlife habitat, water quality, timber
9 production, recreation, or other values or functions identified by the
10 municipality.

11

12

13 (Committee vote: _____)

14

15

Senator _____

16

FOR THE COMMITTEE