

Margaret Murray 2/25/14

Thank you, Senator Christopher Bray as Chair, and to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
For the opportunity to testify re: S. 123. I will be brief.

Versions of this bill have been floating around for the past few years, with what appears to be a rather
Harmless "on the record" change. This will block anyone from a valid appeal to the courts.

The concern given is the "public" does not take part in the earlier "Public access" and informational
hearings. Of course, they do not. The PUBLIC are not fools. The actions behind the closed doors,
executive sessions, work product, not to mention favorable access to decision makers have been clear
in telling the taxpayers to not bother. Hopefully, in court their appeal will be heard by an unbiased
Judge, trained in the law, and not on the payroll of the Agency. (See report on "Hearing Officers")
I have been to the Courts for the last five years, with very high costs. I own a "polluted site" in
Burlington. It has been a heartbreaking experience to watch lawyers who are paid by tax dollars,
to defend government agencies to keep from the prying eyes of the public the inner workings of their
agency. To me, personally, it is worse to know my own government lied to me.

The recent suit against a citizen helping her neighbors, for practicing law, stinks to high heaven.
Millions of Federal, State and Municipal dollars are thrown to political insiders, while hard working
Vermonters are holding two jobs to feed their families. Yet, when damaged by their government's
actions, they go to court unable to secure the very hidden public records. ON THE RECORD. What
sham.

Respectfully submitted

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