



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
TECHNOLOGY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Representative Stephen Carr, Chair House Committee on Energy and Technology

Date: March 17, 2017 *sc*

Subject: ACT 174 RPC Planning Funds

The House Energy and Technology Committee appreciates the opportunity to provide recommendations on the FY18 budget. The House Energy and Technology Committee's highest priority is adding \$300,000.00 of funding from bill-back of electric utilities to fund Year Two of the technical assistance to municipalities ensuring continued implementation of Act 174. The Governor's budget submission did not include this critical appropriation.

In FY 17, the Legislature passed Act 174, a bill to improve the siting of energy projects. A part of the bill included \$300,000.00 for Regional Planning Commissions and Municipalities for the planning and implementation of the law. So important was this funding to the successful implementation of the Act, that it was one of the reasons a Special Session was called last June to correct a drafting error and appropriate the funds, as intended. In FY 17, in testimony to both the House and Senate, it was stated that a minimum of three years of funding would be necessary to provide the necessary assistance to the towns.

As the House Committee on Appropriations reviews the House Committee on Energy and Technology's recommendation or brings forward additional proposals relating to energy, the House Committee on Energy and Technology would like the opportunity to engage in dialogue and provide further input into the House Committee on Appropriations' decisions.

PLANNING SUPPORT; ALLOCATION OF COSTS

(a) During fiscal year 2018, the Commissioner of Public Service, in consultation with the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development, shall award the amount of \$300,000.00 to regional planning commissions established under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 to assist municipalities in the implementation of this act.

(b) In awarding funds under this section, the Commissioners shall consider the need and size of a municipality or region and the availability, if any, of other assistance, expertise, or funds to a municipality or region to implement this act.

(c) The Commissioner of Public Service shall allocate costs under subsection (a) of this section to the electric distribution utilities subject to its supervision under Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated based on their pro rata share of total Vermont retail kilowatt-hour sales for the previous fiscal year. Each of these utilities shall pay its allocation into the State Treasury at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner may direct.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We feel that this funding is critical to complete the goals of Act 174 and better allow towns to prepare and present their positions and thereby receiving their substantial deference.