

115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05633
TEL: (802) 828-2228
FAX: (802) 828-2424



REP. DAVID L. DEEN, CHAIR
REP. MARY SULLIVAN, VICE CHAIR
REP. STEVE BEYOR, RANKING MEMBER
REP. TREVOR SQUIRRELL, CLERK
REP. DAVID AINSWORTH
REP. PAUL LEFEBVRE
REP. JAMES MCCULLOUGH
REP. CAROL ODE
REP. THOMAS TEREZINI

STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES, FISH, AND WILDLIFE

March 13, 2018

Anson Tebbetts
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

Julie Moore
Secretary of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Dear Secretaries Tebbetts and Moore:

The House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife has before it H.631, an act relating to forestland used for maple production. The bill directs the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to work with the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to study the effects of large-scale and commercial maple production operations on the health of forests and surface waters and report the findings of this study to the General Assembly. The Committee received testimony related to this bill that the Agencies have already begun this work. The Committee is supportive of this work and is interested in the information that will be learned from this research.

Therefore, the Committee respectfully asks that the research on large-scale and commercial maple production operations continue and that the Agencies report their findings to the Committee in January 2019. The Committee would also like the report to contain any recommendations concerning regulatory or legislative action that the Agencies determine may be needed to address any adverse impacts to forestland, surface water, recreation, and wildlife caused by large-scale and commercial maple production operations.

Sincerely,



Rep. Paul Lefebvre

For the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife

cc: Emily Boedecker, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation
Michael Snyder, Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Laura DiPietro, Water Quality Division Director, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Jessica Bulova, Wastewater Section Supervisor, Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Division
Rachel Floyd, Consumer Protection Chief, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets