



To: House Way and Means Committee

February 13, 2018

Vermont REALTORS® represents approximately 1600 real estate agents in Vermont who work directly for the citizens and property owners of Vermont. Our interest is preserving the quality of our real estate inventory and we understand that it is directly tied to our environment. We are supportive of most of the clean water efforts that are in the General Assembly processes. We are specifically in support of the some of the changes made by H.576 and would like to share our position.

Act 64 required some very heavy lifting for parcels with 3 or more impervious acres permitted under standards made prior to 2002. We believe the changes made in H.576 are common sense. The changes will help property owners *comply* with the law by improving the timeline for prioritization and adding newly discovered science to assist in the complicated retrofit program.

1. While we understand the need for urgency we are supportive of the extension of time needed to complete the rulemaking and general permit process.
2. We are supportive of the inclusion of the Lake Memphremagog watershed in the offset program.
3. We no longer oppose the half acre threshold for permitting of new construction or redevelopment.
4. We support the extension of the deadline for non-impaired watersheds outside of Champlain and Memphremagog so the agencies can focus their resources on the TMDLs actually in place.

Thank you,

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