



SIERRA CLUB

VERMONT CHAPTER

STATEMENT FROM ROBB KIDD, THE VT CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

April, 4 2018

On behalf of Sierra Club's 13,000 Vermont members and supporters I am submitting comments to the Senate Committee on Appropriations supporting the climate related appropriations in the budget passed by the House. Specifically, I am expressing support for the market-based climate solutions study appropriation and the designation on how the Volkswagen fraud settlement funds are utilized.

After proposing a number of carbon pricing mechanism over the past few years, we are frustrated with the continued negation of all carbon pricing and market-based solutions based on a fear of rising costs. We disagree with the negative assumptions for numerous economists from across the political spectrum have stated the positive merits of carbon pricing and other market-based systems. As our climate becomes even more unpredictable, we cannot afford to wait for solutions to magically present themselves, nor can we afford not to invest in a study whose costs are minimal as compared to projected costs of climate change.

We need to do the necessary work to ensure that Vermont moves forward with solutions that aggressively address climate change while we also ensure that all Vermonters can equitable transition to a low carbon future.

We believe that an independent, non-partisan economic analysis of the costs and benefits of carbon pricing and market-based solutions, as proposed by the Governor's Climate Action Commission, the Mayors Coalition, Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate Economy Action Team, and the Climate Solutions Caucus will demonstrate that Vermont can:

- Prioritize working families and rural Vermonters in the transition to the lower-cost/lower-carbon energy future, and
- Harness the power of the market to reduce carbon pollution and help the state meet its climate and clean energy goals.

Furthermore, we also believe that the Volkswagen Fraud settlement funds need to prioritize reducing all forms of carbon-based fuels and to help accelerate Vermont's transition to electrification of our mass transit system and school busses.

It is our request that the committee appropriates \$120,000 to ensure that the best possible climate solutions policy is identified for Vermont and keeps the language as passed in the House Budget

Sincerely,

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