

115 STATE ST
MONTPELIER, VT 05633
TEL: (802) 828-2228



SEN. CHRISTOPHER A. BRAY, CHAIR
SEN. BRIAN CAMPION, VICE-CHAIR
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SEN. CHRISTOPHER PEARSON
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

TO: Senator Jane Kitchel, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
FROM: Senator Christopher Bray, Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee (SNRE)
DATE: April 20, 2017
RE: FY2018 Budget Priorities

Thank you for the thorough and conscientious work that you and your committee are doing to construct a responsible and fiscally sound budget during an especially challenging year with the potential for significant federal budget changes.

Recognizing these challenges, the committee asks for your committee's attention to and support for a few priority items for which we think investment is critical for both the people and the environment of Vermont:

H.424, the Act 250 bill (on the floor next week); this bill includes a Commission consisting of seven legislators who will work over the period September 2017 through February 2019. We ask for (1) support for legislators on the Commission, and (2) an appropriation of \$25,000 to support the public engagement tour of the state, including the use of outside resources to turn these into true interactive community discussions. We anticipate making a similar request next year, as the tour will bridge the next two fiscal years.

VCWA, Vermont Clean Water Act; we ask that the full incremental proceeds of the Property Transfer Tax be applied to the projects within this act's implementation.

In addition, we support the language contained in "Drafting Request 17 — draft 1.1, 4/19/2017 – MOG – 01:15 PM" (attached).

Act 174, continued funding (\$300,000) via bill-back mechanism to utilities; this year's money will support—through the RPCs, VLCT, and Department of Public Service—the approximately 170 municipalities that have begun participating in town energy planning. This year's funding represented year 3 within the overall plan for 3 years of accelerated energy planning work.

Thank you for your consideration.