

Rebecca Buck

From: Barbara Burnett <nw4estcats@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 6:26 PM
To: Rebecca Buck
Subject: Comment for the Joint House and Senate Budget Committees Regarding the Proposed Budget

I had hoped to be able to attend the hearing this evening in Montpelier, but I cannot. Please forward my comments to the committee members.

Thank you so much!

Barbara Burnett
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Governor's proposed budget.

I am sure that each of you is open to reasonable requests related to that budget. In that regard, I would like you to take action on the governor's climate commission's recent recommendation that an impartial study of carbon pricing be done in order for Vermont to take meaningful action to address our contribution to global warming.

Since a sizable number of government entities worldwide have successfully instituted such a policy, I believe that each of you would agree that it only makes sense to include a full and fair study of carbon pricing in the proposed budget.

Because those other entities have already instituted a carbon pricing policy, it would appear that much of the heavy lifting of researching the benefits of such a policy has already been done. By starting with their analyses you should be able to cut the cost of producing a study—plus you will have access to hard data showing how closely the actual benefits from instituting the policy have matched with the projected benefits.

I am confident that a complete and impartial study of a well-crafted carbon pricing policy will make it clear that implementing it would not only help accomplish all of the Governor's priorities set forth in the proposed budget, but that it will also be extremely effective in reducing VT's carbon pollution and, hence, our contribution to global warming. I urge each of you to agree to explore carbon pricing as an effective way to take urgent climate action as well as to contribute to VT's economic development.