



Vermont Climate Economy Action Team

March 30, 2018

Senator Jane Kitchel, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Vermont Statehouse, Room 5
Montpelier, VT 05601

Re: A study to analyze the costs and benefits of approaches to
greenhouse gas reduction

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Vermont Climate Economy Action Team (CEAT) to express support for the House appropriation to fund a study to evaluate the opportunities and costs to Vermont of carbon pricing and carbon market structures.

CEAT believes a significant long-term opportunity exists to change our relationship to, and dependence on carbon based fuels. The importance and scale of this change requires a complex and delicate system of state, regional, and national incentives and disincentives to reward behavior, activities, and innovations in the necessary transition to a non-fossil fuels economy. The team also recognizes there is further work to be done to develop a full picture of the economic costs and benefits of carbon pricing and carbon market structures, and if and how these structures could stimulate economic growth and provide significant emission reductions.

To develop this understanding, CEAT believes there would be significant value in an independent study by the Joint Fiscal Office to analyze the costs and benefits of different models including carbon pricing, trading, and RGGI expansion. The study would identify those models most likely to boost economic development, innovation, and job creation in the state.

CEAT believes a small investment in building common facts, removed from politics, could be very useful towards progress and we hope you will hold and support the house appropriation of \$120,000 for the study.

Sincerely,

Paul Costello
Producer, Climate Economy Action Team
Executive Director, VT Council on Rural Development
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Advancing initiatives to expand distributed energy generation and efficiency in Vermont, cultivate climate economy entrepreneurs and startup businesses, and reduce Vermont's carbon impact while boosting economic development, creating jobs, and attracting youth and creative entrepreneurs to the state.

Vermont Climate Economy Action Team Members:

Joe Fusco, *Casella Waste Solutions (Chair)*

Ludy Biddle, *Neighborworks of Western Vermont*

Olivia Campbell Andersen, *Renewable Energy Vermont*

Catherine Dimitruk, *Northwest Regional Planning Commission*

Rob Downey, *Zero Gravity*

Jared Duval, *Energy Action Network*

Chad Farrell, *Encore Renewable Energy*

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Judy Geer, *Craftsbury Outdoor Center*

Karen Glitman, *Vermont Energy Investment Corporation*

Dan Hoxworth, *Capstone Community Action*

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Neale Lunderville, *Burlington Electric Department*

Linda McGinnis, *Energy Action Network*

James Moore, *SunCommon*

Nick Richardson, *Vermont Land Trust*

Brian Shupe, *VNRC*

David Snedeker, *Northern Vermont Development Association*

Ross Sneyd, *National Life Group*

Larry Williams, *Bolton Valley & Redstone*

Alex Wilson, *BuildingGreen*