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**To:** Senator Phillip Baruth, Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Debbie Ingram, Clerk, Senate Committee on Education

**From:** John Diego, Principal, Mountain View Environmental Services

**Date:** February 21, 2018

**Subject:** S.279 Draft No. 1.2, Radon Testing in Schools

I am an environmental engineer with 36 years of consulting experience focusing on air, soil and groundwater. I hold certifications for Radon Measurement, Radon Mitigation, the AASRT Radon Professional and Radon Resistant New Construction (RRNC) through the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP). Consideration to require and support radon testing in schools throughout Vermont through passage of this bill will not only protect children and school staff and administrators from the known risk of lung cancer, but it will also spread the awareness of radon impacts throughout the communities.

I have reviewed the S.279 Draft and suggest the following revisions:

Page 1, line 16. (a) The Department of Health shall perform *radon measurement in accordance with ANSI/AARST protocol for conducting Radon and Radon Decay Products in Schools and Large Buildings (Schools and Large Buildings Measurements (MALB-2014))* on the facilities of at least 40 schools each year until each school in the State has been tested.

Page 2, Line 13. Sec.2. *MITIGATION* should replace *REMEDIATION*.

Page 2, Line 14. Sec.2. *Mitigation* should replace *Remediation*.

I also suggest including on the Committee a Radon Professional certified by NRPP to provide helpful technical insight of radon testing and mitigation practices, standards and costs.

During the past six years, I have been involved with a number of large building renovations and new construction. We have successfully implemented Radon Resistant New Construction practices in these buildings to address potential radon, moisture and other chemical vapor

impacts. These practices have proven to be economical solutions that were addressed during design and construction versus a more costly after-the-fact approach.

Other benefits from radon mitigation systems following RRNC practices require more energy efficient design, potential Green Building Points, reduction in moisture and provides overall improved air quality.

Leland and Gray Middle and High School was tested in 2009. 11 rooms exceeded EPA's current mitigation level of 4.0 pCi/l, with the highest level found in the library at 10.0 pCi/l. 10.0 pCi/l is the equivalent of smoking a pack of cigarettes per day.

Thank you for considering my input. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me with any questions at [jdiego@mvesvt.com](mailto:jdiego@mvesvt.com) or 802-288-9600.