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Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 9:30:02 AM

To: "Richard Sears" <RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Citizen suit bill

Hi, Dick. I understand that the bill to authorize citizen environmental enforcement suits is before your committee. I hope the committee will take a hard look at this. Citizen suits have been an enforcement mechanism in federal environmental law for almost fifty years, and as far as I can tell, have worked very well. Many states have similar provisions. In an era of declining resources for governmental enforcement, the provisions allow citizens to supplement governmental efforts to assure environmental quality. There certainly need to be procedural safeguards, particularly advance notice before suits can be filed. But with appropriate safeguards, citizen suits are a useful and effective enforcement tool. I am sure you and your committee are knee-deep in firearms issues, but in due time and with due consideration I hope you will take a good look at the citizen suit proposal. As always, I would be glad to discuss it if you thought that might be helpful to you. Best regards, Rob.