

From: John Elder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 7:40 PM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: Hearings on Vermont Budget

Dear Theresa Utton-Jerman,

I will not be able to attend any of the budgetary hearings scheduled for Monday, February 25th. But I would greatly appreciate your adding these comments to the record of those meetings.

It's extremely important, in my opinion, that both weatherization and additional charging stations for electric vehicles be prioritized in the budget. Climate change has already impacted Vermont adversely. By several measures, winters are shorter by as much as a month since my wife Rita and I moved here in 1973. Outdoor recreation, the health of our forests, and iconic features of our rural lifeways like sugaring have all been damaged by this shift. Beyond Vermont, as Bill McKibben's November 26th essay in the *New Yorker* details with devastating clarity, the next dozen years may well be our last change to mitigate the gravity of climate change globally.

Weatherization is one of the most effective ways to diminish Vermont's carbon footprint, while at the same time offering substantial savings to home-owners and renters alike. Increasing opportunities for charging electric vehicles--especially through establishing more fast chargers--would address the greatest challenge facing owners of such cars. Adding a couple of level-2 chargers and at least one level-3 charger at sites in White River, Middlebury, Rutland, Bennington, and Brattleboro would make it much more feasible for electric vehicles to travel the length of Vermont and also to make overnight trips to Boston. The difference would be especially important in the winter, when charges on these cars yield many fewer miles than they do at summer temperatures.

Thank you very much for passing along these comments to interested parties in the legislature.

Sincerely,

John Elder
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