

My name is Catherine Bock
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I urge you to support H 51 and H 175 and H 214 and would like them to be taken up immediately next session. This legislation could help reduce continued use of fossil fuels in a time when we must transition to renewable energy for our survival.

Vermont is a small state but our actions still affect the big picture. Everyone is affected by climate change and everyone benefits from taking action to reverse climate change. We all know people who have had their lives ruined by the effects of recent extreme weather events.

I have a close friend, Kate who I have known since I was in elementary school. We even went to the same college and one summer we spent a month riding our bikes home after spring semester. We have kept in touch for over 45 years so I was sad to learn that her husband of 40 years died in May of 2018. They had raised their family in Paradise California and Kate was still living there with her dog, grieving the loss of her husband, when the Camp fire hit on Nov 11, 2018. 14,000 homes were burned and 85 people killed. It was the worst fire in California's history. Kate's house was one of the homes destroyed. She was at work but her dog was locked into the house. When she came home she found he had been incinerated along with the house and a lifetime of memories. She was overcome with grief.

I joined many of Kate's friends in starting a go fund me campaign to help her afford a new house, but I can't help the billions of people in the world who are effected by climate change though I certainly would like to.

Every drop of fossil fuel we burn contributes to the climate chaos we are experiencing so why would we need new fossil fuel infrastructure in Vermont? Kate can build a new house but the fires fueled by drought, extreme heat and stronger winds caused by our burning of fossil fuels will continue. Investing in renewable energy is the only way to insure a future for the next generations. Please support H 51 to ban construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and H 175 to ban the use of eminent domain for new fossil fuel projects. These bills give Vermonters a chance to be part of the solution to climate change instead of part of the problem.