

Public Comment on H.51, H.175, H.214
Marie Davis
April 17, 2019

Warm spring greetings,

I am writing to you today in support of the current bills that ban the construction of fossil fuel infrastructure, and stop the use of eminent domain in creating more fossil fuel infrastructure, and that protect our waters here in our beloved state of Vermont.

In 2014, I walked from LA to DC with the Great March for Climate Action. We started in the Port of Los Angeles, where some of our country largest oil refineries are. Because of the poor air quality, it wasn't long before my eyes were watering and my throat was sore. I looked around, walking through a community that was clearly marginalized, living in the off-gassing shadow of our country's fossil fuel infrastructure. If I could hardly stand it for a day, how could they live their whole lives in that heavy, burning air?

All across the country we heard stories from people who had industry come in with promises of improvement and benefits to their community, and inevitably something went wrong with these dangerous systems; spills, leaks, explosions, as will happen. Their bodies, their land, water, air, morale and trust, all broken. It amazes and disheartens me that the egregious choice of putting profit over life can be legal, sanctioned by our government.

And, laws can be changed. May we learn from these aggressions and mistakes. Let us be a leader in the movement toward climate justice for all beings. We are an amazingly resilient and resourceful people here in Vermont. Let's work smarter by giving our support to energy sources that are truly healthier and more just for all. This is the direction we need to be going in; a healthy course correction. This is not a time to hesitate.

With respect, and visions of a vibrant, healthy planet,
Marie Davis
Burlington, Vermont