

Public Comment on H.51, H.175, H.214  
April 25, 2019

My name is Molly Babbin, I am 19 years old, and I live in Middlebury, VT. I was at the Tuesday hearing but did not get a chance to speak. Here is my short testimony.

About two weeks ago, I sat among an audience of young Vermonters as three renowned climate scientists discussed our futures. Rupert Read, a British climate author, looked out at us and said, “some of you in this very room will die because of climate change.” Those words shocked me, terrified me, and it was in that moment that I could finally feel the tangibility of the climate disaster that I had grown up believing would occur long after I was dead. I have always been told that I was fighting for my children or for my grandchildren. It was this moment two weeks ago that I realized that was not the entire truth. The truth is, I am fighting for myself.

We need a major transformation in the way we are powering our lives. A transition to clean and renewable energy had to have happened decades ago. We cannot rebuild and we cannot transform if we are dependent on fossil fuels, and this is why I support bills H.51, H.175, and H.214. A ban on new fossil fuel infrastructure is a small step in what needs to be a massive movement. These small bills shouldn't even be a question.

Many earlier testimonies focused on our responsibility to the land, the death of the planet. Yes, I do believe this is a question of protecting the natural environment and the Earth we stand on. However, the government exists to serve the people. We cannot forget that this is also a human problem. This is a question about whether we care about the future and lives of real, tangible human beings who live in our beautiful state.

Thank you.