

Public Comment on H.51, H.175, H.214
Willa Abel
April 17, 2019

In case you haven't heard, or internalized the fact yet, let me emphasize this for you: climate change is THE issue of your time. I don't mean to belittle other worthwhile social concerns, but they simply cannot compare to the existential threat facing the people and planet we hold dear. This is no longer a time to weigh the benefits of climate action to other economic considerations; if we were going to proceed that way, we would have had to start decades ago. Aggressive climate action is now the other sane and ethical route. If you do not support the three bills up for public comment (H.51, H.175, and H.214), then you forfeit the right to claim that you represent the people of Vermont. The majority of people in America want climate action. The reason you do not hear about it as much as some issues is simply because it is so scary that most of us avoid talking about it when we can. That does not mean that we will not vote with this in mind.

Perhaps it will help you to see these bills in a positive light. They are not prohibitions, but rather opportunities to move the energy sector in Vermont more quickly into the inevitable future. Renewable energy simply is the way forward, so why not dive into it with gusto and ambition. Let Vermont be a leader; the others will soon follow. They no longer have any choice.

The climate movement- or lack thereof- has made me a skeptic. I see politicians, and a political process, who seem incapable of acting with any kind of sense, courage and moral correctness even when facing the most devastating future. I would be so pleased to have a reason to change my mind about this. Please give me one.

Sincerely,
Willa Abel
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