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I appreciate the Governor's recognition that Climate Change is something we have to deal with now. Two years ago, he appointed a Climate Action Commission to recommend actions that Vermont can take to help stop Climate Change. I had the pleasure of serving on that committee and we made 54 recommendations to the Governor. I am happy to see some of those recommendations make it into his budget.

I want to express my support for the Governor's budget proposals for grid optimization, EVs, Renewable Energy and the need for climate solutions. We need to help our communities become more resilient in the face of more frequent catastrophic and costly weather events by implementing more local renewables coupled with energy storage.

I appreciate the Governor's support for grid optimization start-ups and new pilot projects to help optimize local renewable generation and energy efficiency as well as State investments to spur that grid efficiency, to lower energy costs and to help grow existing and new innovative businesses. The incentives will help empower every Vermont community to generate and store its own power locally – which is only possible if we also modernize and improve efficiency of the grid.

I also support the \$3 million dollars for electric vehicle incentives and expanded charging infrastructure to cut Vermont's transportation pollution and costs.

Grid Optimization and EV 's were important recommendations from the Climate Action Commission and I am happy to see them as a priority in the budget.

Thanks.

Bill Laberge