

From: Seth Jensen <seth@lpcvt.org>

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To: Tasha Wallis <tasha@lpcvt.org>

Subject: FW: Message from Alice Emmons, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Sec. 25. 24 V.S.A. § 4764

Revisions to Paragraph (a)

Water and wastewater infrastructure is critical to achieving the land use planning goals outlined in 24 VSA 4302, and providing diverse housing and economic opportunities. In order to be successful, the planning process for water and wastewater infrastructure must consider land issue issues such as likely service area, current users, and future community goals. Understanding these issues early in the process is critical to informing the engineering decisions. Advanced planning is also important to building community awareness of the need and developing public support for future action. Understanding of land issue issues can also help communities “right-size” systems for the local setting and contribute to long term viability of the State investment.

This language will also ensure that the Planning Advance can and will fund *all* activities necessary for “conceptual approval” for a soil based wastewater system, a prerequisite for the Neighborhood Development Area Designation, as outlined in the link below. This will enable more rural communities to access the NDA program benefits in and around their Villages, thereby increasing housing options for Vermonters in appropriate land use settings.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/DTBoard/NDAProcessforANRWastewaterApproval.pdf>

New Paragraph (d)

Many Villages that lack critical water and sewer infrastructure are located in rural communities with limited municipal staff *and* administrative capacity. Vermont’s Regional Planning Commissions are statutorily created to provide technical assistance to municipalities. Many rural communities look to their Regional Planning Commission for assistance with complex projects. In addition, Regional Planning Commissions provide continuity for long term projects that can be difficult to achieve in communities that otherwise rely on municipal volunteers.