



1/29/2020

RE: H.688 Global Warming Solutions Act

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT) is the trade organization for contractors and construction workers in Vermont. We provide industry specific training, Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) certifications and are home to nationally recognized safety instruction. Our members employ 15,000-20,000 in Vermont annually with careers offering wages and benefits well above Vermont's livable wage. Our members work directly with state agencies including the VTRANS, Building and General Services and Department of Labor to enhance delivery of service to the state.

AGC/VT members have been involved in environmental projects for quite some time already. Construction of wind turbines, dam erection, rail projects, electric grid improvements, energy efficient buildings, brownfield mitigation, and of course solar projects. AGC/VT is also proud to have been a clearing house for emergency repairs across the state in the hurricane Irene aftermath. We have also taken note of the state's desire to advance weatherization of our existing home inventory. AGC/VT is in the planning process of creating a certification program for contractors with the center focus being weatherization and other trade education such as framing, finishing or utility installation. The weatherization of new and existing buildings will require education for new techniques across the trades.

We are very aware that most of the policies that the Global Warming Solution Act will require varying levels of infrastructure, weatherization, resiliency, retrofitting or construction which will likely be built by one of our members.

Recommended Changes to H.688

1. Add 2 more members to the council. One member will be a construction engineer and one member who is a professional dealing in construction materials. Both would be able to address technological feasibility of projects and make recommendations where needed to address deficiencies.
2. Eliminate the "Cause of Action" section.
3. Add legislative approval to the process. Any proposal will require some sort of investment or revenue whether it be in an enforcement regime, capital expenditure, grant system or operating expense. One example where our democratic system worked well was the Act 64 clean water process. By involving the legislature, good policy was created, funding was developed, and elected representatives had the final say in proposals.

Thank you,
Matt Musgrave
Deputy Executive Vice President
Associated General Contractors of Vermont