

House Energy and Technology Committee

April 23rd, 2019

Testimony in Support of H.51, H.175, H.214, legislation which collectively works to ban large scale fossil fuel infrastructure.

Dear Members of the House Energy and Technology Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Vermont, our planet and a member of 350 Vermont. My purpose is to request that you review and make a favorable recommendation on the above mentioned bills.

We are facing a climate crisis of which we have only just begun to feel the effects of, and even if we meet the goals set forth in the Paris Climate accords, we are still on track to see 5.4 degrees in Fahrenheit of warming by 2100. That level of heating is potentially our best case scenario, and is still likely catastrophic for our State, Nation and Planet. We need to do more immediately to decrease emissions, and additional large scale fossil fuel infrastructure is moving us in completely the wrong direction. Additionally, such infrastructure poses significant local safety and health risks via potential leakage or accidents, and represents significant sunk costs which may very well need to be abandoned prematurely as the magnitude of the crisis becomes increasingly evident. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that those dollars would be far more well spent on conservation measures and new truly green energy sources.

These bills work in concert to prohibit the development of large scale fossil fuel infrastructure, and represent a significant step in moving our great State away from dependence on fossil fuels. We face no easy choices, but by making these difficult decisions now, we prevent ourselves from having to make far more difficult ones in the future. Considering the above, I strongly recommend that you collectively endorse these bills, and move as quickly as possible to ensure they become law.

As a part time legislative body, I appreciate your dedication and hard work, and know that you have to make difficult decisions as to what you can address in your limited time in session. We have a National reputation as being a leader on environmental and social issues, and we should work to continue to deserve this mantle. There is NO more urgent issue than climate change, therefore please confront the hard facts and move aggressively to curb the use of fossil fuels in our State by endorsing these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Seward J. Ogden III
Putney, VT 05346