

Dear Chair Sheldon and Esteemed Representatives,

It occurred to me that I thought this was important for you to see. There has been much testimony submitted by experts all over the world over the last many months to the Senate as well, some of which you may not have seen. I have many, many more emails such as this that have been shared with Senators and others. I won't inundate you with them all but this is an example. If you wish to see everything that I am aware of that has been sent to others in recent months in overwhelming support of H.99/S.29, please let me know.

Thank you, again,

 Ashley

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ben Zion Ptashnik** <[benzion9@gmail.com](mailto:benzion9@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 8:39 AM

Subject: Would appreciate a few minutes to discuss the matter of Bill S29

To: <[tashe@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tashe@leg.state.vt.us)>

Tim,

Let me first introduce myself. I am an environmental activist and former Democratic VT State Senator from Windsor County, though my current (US) address is in Chittenden County, in South Burlington. So I am ostensibly your constituent.

First let me congratulate you on your ascension to the post of Pro Tem. That's quite an honor. And I know a great responsibility; I used to sit next to Peter Shumlin when he was Pro Tem, and so I remember how much work that entails.

Currently I am in Mexico where I have organized a project for reforestation, water management, and environmental remediation, this in the central mountain municipality of San Miguel de Allende. I came here twenty years ago to pioneer the solar industry in Mexico, pass federal legislation for net metering, and I started the first incorporated Solar Energy and Wind Company here.

I also travel back and forth to Washington DC where I manage (as ED) the [National Election Defense Coalition](#) (NEDC), a coalition of 45 NGOs working on election security; we focus on getting [federal funding for states](#) to secure elections, getting rid of paperless DRE voting machines, and eliminating internet connectivity of voting systems in light of the potential for hacking.

**One of my staffers is an international activist working on animal poaching and endangered species, she brought this Bill to my attention. I know that the Senate session just started, and you must be busy, but I would appreciate, as a favor to me, that you please pay attention to this Bill protecting endangered species and discuss its progress with me.**

Perhaps we can have a chat regarding this issue in the next week or so, as I intend to get personally involved. I gather there is pushback from the business community. As a founding member of VBSR, I have been through this polarity of interests many times, and know that sometimes these balances take time to negotiate, but are doable with enough concerted focus. I will contact VBSR to see if I can convince them to participate. As former Chair of the VPIRG Board, I will also try to engage them. Is this Bill currently in the Economic Development Committee?

Let me know a good time to call you, I am on Central Time, but I am available from 730 AM ET most days, early mornings are usually best. Also Internet connections (FaceTime or WhatsApp) are best. Cell service is a bit spotty here at the project.

Thanks

Ben