

From: Steve Libby <slibby@vermontriverconservancy.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 2:31 PM

To: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>; Carol Ode <COde@leg.state.vt.us>; Chris Bates <CBates@leg.state.vt.us>; Christy Ketchel <CKetchel@leg.state.vt.us>; Harvey Smith <HSmith@leg.state.vt.us>; Jim McCullough <JMcCullough@leg.state.vt.us>; Kari Dolan <KDolan@leg.state.vt.us>; Leland Morgan <LMorgan@leg.state.vt.us>; Paul Lefebvre <PLefebvre@leg.state.vt.us>; Thomas Terenzini <TTerenzini@leg.state.vt.us>; Trevor Squirrel <TSquirrel@leg.state.vt.us>; Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: S96 - Comments from an Implementation Organization

Dear Representative Sheldon and Committee Members,

Over the past decade the Vermont River Conservancy has worked very closely with ANR staff and programs to implement “on the ground” water quality enhancement projects statewide. We have successfully completed over 75 individual river corridor easement, floodplain restoration, and riparian buffer enhancement projects - and have evolved a strong understanding of how to effectively work with individual landowners and individual towns to improve water quality.

Our request is that S96 be modified to increase the geographic scope of eligible projects. While we recognize the high priority of dealing with TMDL goals in critical watersheds, we also know that ALL watersheds of the state can benefit from water quality investments, and that such geographic equity will benefit ALL Vermonters.

We also request that the Committee increase the allocation to the **Water Quality Enhancement Grant program** from \$1.5 million to \$5 million to strategically invest in projects that provide “Co-Benefits” to Vermonters - such as projects that combine water quality enhancement with flood adaptation with public access.

Again, speaking as an organization that is working every day to improve the rivers of Vermont, we ask that the Committee expand the scope of S96 to benefit all the watersheds of Vermont and, therefore, all the citizens of Vermont.

With best regards and appreciation for the difficult work you do,

Steve Libby, Executive Director

Vermont River Conservancy

Steve Libby
Executive Director
Vermont River Conservancy
29 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

802-229-0820 (office)

802-363-0616 (cell)

slibby@vermontriverconservancy.org