

RE: February 13, 2019 Testimony
To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy Committee
From: Lewis Creek Association, Marty Illick, Director

Thank you Senator Bray and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy for inviting me to speak. LCA has a long history (+25 yrs) of clean water work and was organized in 1990 to complement local district and NRCS activity who did no data collection and only worked at the parcel level with no consideration of the local catchments and drainage area conditions. Our work programs include, data collection and planning, conservation and restoration, and education outreach. We work in the middle Lake Champlain Valley and are well networked with municipalities, property owners, VT land conservation groups, state and fed groups. We strongly promote a public private relationship network.

I have now reviewed the draft water quality related bills, one from ANR with a focus on utilities/funding distribution and one from Bray, Lyons et al with a more broad focus on funding and implementation.

The ANR draft has a narrow focus and does not include introductory context, so it is hard to comment at this time without hearing about the process with which ANR arrived at this bill.

The Bray draft is much improved as it considers VT's current context more completely and has likelihood for success as it appears to more strategically consider social capacity, economic efficiencies and pollution concerns and complexities.

Discussion points-----I suggest this draft be enhanced with:

1. Add specific language about how basin plan improvements will be upgraded and used to inform and carry implementation of all VT WQ mgmt and inform EPA
2. Add language that calls out DEC as the lead group to direct all WQ investments and planning. They have the tech and planning staff and this function should NOT be redundant across agencies. All other agencies must take their lead from DEC. They are the ultimate responsible party for all things WQ.
3. Add sufficient language to clarify how reg vs non reg activities will be financed and mnged over time. Recognize what differentiated reg uses vs no reg uses, and WHY there is reg vs non reg pollution and land uses.
4. Add that we must show cost accounting over time for reg vs non reg pollution mgmt.