



March 15, 2019

Dear Vermont House and Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club sent a targeted alert for our members to sign a letter requesting your committees support action on Climate Change in the budget. Unfortunately, due to technological challenges, there was a delay in getting you these signatures.

The letter is included below with the names and towns of signatories. Following the letter are the individual personal comments our members provided on the petition form. Attached is an excel file that has email and mailing addresses if the committees would like to send any follow-up response.

Thank you for your considerations as you ponder actions to address climate change.

Robb Kidd
Vermont Sierra Club
Conservation Program Manager
802-505-1540
robb.kidd@sierraclub.org



Vermont Sierra Club Electronic Petition to the Vermont House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Signed between Feb 22-March 1. Delivery Delayed

The Vermont State Budget should make strategic investments to act on Climate Solutions.

In order to address climate change at a minimum, the budget process should include appropriations to:

Allocate \$4.5 million to create an electric vehicle incentive program, prioritizing low- and middle-income Vermonters, using all state VW and Chrysler settlement dollars. This is a good start, however in order to reach Vermont's transportation goals we need to do even more in future years.

Dedicate all the remaining federal VW Settlement funds (Appendix D) to electric vehicles and EV infrastructure.

Provide Funding to undertake a robust analysis of the state's transportation system and develop a transportation and climate pollution reduction strategy that will be ready for action in 2020.

Double the number of low- and moderate-income homes weatherized every year. Vermont is far behind its goals for this crucial program that assists households with limited incomes to save money, stay warm and reduce carbon emissions.

Thank you for consideration in supporting the above programs.

Signed Electronically-

Alaine Plourde Lunenburg
Donna Walters Burlington
Larry Bush Calais
Sarah Nilsen Shelburne
Jack Zeilenga E Montpelier
Gaen Murphree Middlebury
Carolyn Bates Burlington
Joel Trupin Marshfield,
Jonathan and Charlene Morse Marlboro
Eric Brattstrom Warren
Elise Marks Burlington
Camille H. Noble Starksboro
Mark Gannett South Burlington
Kelly Murphey Stowe
Leigh Marthe Brattleboro
Scott Moore Putney
Karl Novak Hinesburg
Gunnar Sievert Shelburne
Sarah Lincoln N Ferrisburgh
Laurel A Copeland Brattleboro
Melinda Stucker Norwich
Jarryd Audette Underhill
Jordan Chapman Milton
Susan Detato Brownington
Bonnie Eade Pownal
Bernice Vogel Montpelier
Ralph Herbert Northfield
Barbara Wynroth Burlington
Vicki Schwab Newport
E P Sternberg Shaftsbury
Jeff Kiralis Fairlee
Barbara Burnett Montpelier
Jim Snee Rutland
Laurel Allen Winooski
Doug Frugi Whitingham

Julia King Vergennes
Ralph Corbo East Wallingford
David Deen Westminster
Alan Citron Manchester Center
Knox Cummin Huntington
Michael Sakash Stowe
Denis Rydjeski Springfield
Reed Sims Jericho
Caitlin Gildrien Leicester
H.D. Horton CORINTH
Gary Stahl Killington
Mk Wilkinson Dummerston
Craig Macrae N Pomfret
Bob Albern Albern Middlebury
Gwendolyn Blaine Burlington
Stephanie Moffett Hynds Arlington
Sara Clay Wilmington
Thomas Disilvio Burlington
Kari Smith Dummerston
Colin Sturgess Essex
David Ellenbogen Calais
Candy Jones Rutland
Rachel Fussell Stowe
Yvonne Straus Montpelier
Kristina Sievert Shelburne
Takayuki Kokabu Burlington
Callie Willis Warren
Mauren Schake Colchester
Justin Davis Barre

Personal comments:

A large number of Vermont farms are facing great losses due to many ineffective policies set by the State, that have proved detrimental to dairy farms, as well as, those farms growing conventional crops. The 2019 state budget must focus on these issues. E P Sternberg

Action is required! Our climate affects many professions in Vermont. Our environment is shared with many beautiful animals and, on their behalf, I urge action. Thanks! Bonnie Eade

As a newcomer to. Earning living in the NEK I see the great need for clean water initiatives, helping people create more efficient living spaces and support our movement away from fossil fuels and keep up incentives for solar, etc. we also need to find alternatives to landfills that are

polluting Lake Memphremagog and other water systems. Its archaic and no solution. Why destroy one of the most pristine areas of the state? Vicki Schwab

Climate action is needed in Vermont. Our son, who moved here recently, just bought an electric car and now needs to have places to charge it. Many other programs to reduce climate change are needed. Joel Trupin

Dear legislators, My wife and I have worked through the last decade to reduce our carbon footprint, with PV that supplies our electricity and hot water, geothermal heat, and a plug-in hybrid car. The expense was large, and we know many Vermonters cannot easily save for these improvements. What I advocate is that you offer incentives to lower the costs for measures that both save energy throughout the state, and reduce monthly expenses for individual families. It will help us get to the 2030 targets. Please use those VW funds wisely in pushing forward on renewable energy solutions to make VT less dependent on outside sources while reducing demand for energy. Reed Sims

Dear Vermont House and Senate Appropriations Committees, I am a resident of Stowe and am writing to urge you to support a climate package in the upcoming budget to help Vermonters save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Rachel Fussell

Energy efficiency makes Vermont more economically competitive. Ralph Herbert

Fighting climate change can also mean cleaner environment, healthier homes, and lower electric bills. When thinking about climate change as a budget item, please remember that energy efficiency and healthy homes initiatives can also affect the financial well-being and overall health of an individual and their families. Takayuki Kokabu

Forgot to add to my previous message that weatherization also creates green jobs! Gaen Murphree

I think that we should be moving forward faster instead of waiting and seeing... analyzing... Climate change is going to affect us "all" in some way or another... and it is getting worse. Actions have to be taken now. I would suggest using massive transportation, such as trains, electric buses, weatherize homes and give incentives to homeowners and especially low income households, we should be promoting the use of vehicles that have less impact overall. Yvonne Straus

I use public transportation several times a week. The entire system needs an overhaul. Laurel Allen

I was grateful for funds to support the weather inaction of my home in 2012. Since then I have more than paid for this support in my own budget and have contributed to the lower carbon

footprint of my home on the planet. This is a way that I would be glad to see others in Vermont benefit. Leigh Marthe

I'm a voter and I want to see action. H.D. Horton

Implementing programs to decarbonize and update our transportation infrastructure would most certainly prove advantageous for Vermont, the environment, commuters, tax payers dollars, etc..

In rural areas, lets see more public buses/vans with appropriate parking and stops near places of work. More incentives for solar! Jordan Chapman

It's critical that we move boldly on climate change, and making EVs more affordable while improving the infrastructure for them is an important step. Weatherization is another low-hanging fruit that improves people's lives and saves them money while reducing their carbon footprint. The budget should prioritize these actions as the minimum needed to combat the catastrophic climate change we face in our lifetimes. Low-income Vermonters especially need help with weatherization, purchase of electric vehicles and charging stations.

Please do everything possible to promote EV?s until 15% of all new car sales are EV?s. Incentives/subsidies for qualified low-income Vermonters to buy used vehicles such as the Toyota Prius should also be part of the package. David Ellenbogen

Please help protect our environment for our children and for future generations. The fossil fuel industry's wholesale attack on our environment must be stopped. Sarah Nilsen

Please make sure that you give climate change the importance it deserves. Without action, anything else we do is pointless. Jonathan and Charlene Morse

Please, let's act to fulfill the emission reduction goal. Knox Cummin

SCIENCE and scientific principles are needed in our state government. Politicians are good at making hash. Vermont should DECLARE that climate change is a problem. Let's all get together and face the problem rather than sticking our heads in the sand simply because that is the do-nothing route. Bob Albern

So important that Vermont lead on climate change measures! Sara Clay

Stop the gutting of the air quality standards for older cars! Our air is not clean in that we cannot eat our fish safely because of airborne mercury and 35% of the days at our air monitoring station there are warnings for excessive particulate matter. Now we want to allow VOCs and other pollutants into the air. Dumb and dumber. David Deen

The task of saving the planet has never been more urgent. We must seize every opportunity to mitigate the effects of climate change and global warming. Gunnar Sievert

These are much needed steps towards the changes that will be needed to insure a healthy, sustainable future for all of us. Callie Willis

These are such tiny steps, given the enormity of the problems that the world faces. Step up, legislators! If you can't do something simple and small like this, there is no hope, really. Larry Bush

This is a much better use of the funds than buying diesel vehicles. Donna Walters

This is critical. EVERYTHING ELSE we have to deal with will be affected by our responses to climate change and global warming. Therefore, it is imperative to allocate funds for transportation electrification, a transportation study, and home weatherization assistance for low- and moderate-income homes. Thank you. Stephanie Moffett Hynds

Vermont desperately needs electric train and bus transportation to allow people to commute to work and surrounding cities without using personal vehicles. Mauren Schake

Vt has an urgent need for fast-charge, direct current multi-port electric car station on our interstate highways to speed up EV purchases. Also, a State carbon tax in order to fund weatherization of low-income family homes. Eric Brattstrom

We cannot kick the can down the road on the threat of climate change. The time to take more robust action is now. Jack Zeilenga

We could not be at a more important juncture. This is a time for BOLD action to move our communities off fossil fuels entirely, and to ensure a sustainable future for all. Key is to address the needs of working and poor communities to be served by, and participate in, the sustainable transportation and energy systems we put in place. Kari Smith

We have a unique opportunity to use the VW settlement funds to upgrade our transportation systems. We should convert school busses and public transportation buses to electric, and also subsidize programs to help consumers switch to electric vehicles. Please don't waste this opportunity to move us forward toward an energy future that is equitable for all. Candy Jones
We live in Middlebury in an 1870s farmhouse that like a lot of old farmhouses in Middlebury is hard to heat. This year we better weatherized our house and installed heat pumps. We're a moderate-income family, and we couldn't have done that without a loan from Efficiency Vermont.

Weatherization is a great way to lower our carbon footprint, take a bigger step towards our renewable energy goals, make heating more affordable, and preserve the history and beauty of our old homes. Gaen Murphree

We only have one environment. If we lose the environment, we lose ourselves. If we lose the environment, we lose it all. Michael Sakash