

March 13, 2020

Dear Chairman Bray and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about S.267 and to strongly urge the adoption of the recommendations offered by the Department of Public Service to develop proposals for Tier II and other steps toward 100% renewables before enacting them through this bill.

The amendment recommended by the Committee on Finance does not meaningfully reduce significant cost concerns with the underlying bill, particularly with regard to proposed changes to Tier II requirements.

Energy costs are already a significant competitive challenge for Vermont businesses, and it can be expected that businesses will factor the expected cost increases associated with S.267 into their planning for investment, employment, and production in Vermont over the coming years.

The approach recommended by the Department would help identify more cost-effective approaches toward 100% renewables, including changes to Tier II if cost issues can be addressed, before steps are taken that could be difficult to correct in a timely manner if at all. Moreover, this approach would not unduly delay responsible steps forward – it would only ensure that any steps are well considered and understood before they are committed to.

Sincerely:

Addison County Economic Development Corporation

Associated General Contractors of Vermont

Associated Industries of Vermont

Barre Granite Association

Bennington County Industrial Corporation

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation

Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation

Green Mountain Dairy Farmers

Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation

Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

National Federation of Independent Business/VT

Northeastern Vermont Development Association

Rutland Economic Development Corporation

Springfield Regional Development Corporation

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Vermont Farm Bureau

Vermont Retail and Grocers Association

Vermont Ski Areas Association

Vermont Truck and Bus Association

Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors
Association