

Stephen Crowley  
Energy Chair, Vermont Sierra Club  
12 Pleasant Ave.  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
January 25, 2021

Re: 21-0539 - An act relating to FY 2021 Governor's Recommended State Budget Adjustment

Representative Hooper, and members of the committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment briefly on the Budget Adjustment Act. I would like to offer my support for the request for additional funding for the Vermont Climate Council.

The Climate Council is a process I have been following closely since the early versions of what became Act 153 were first proposed. As the work of the Climate Council unfolds, and as we see more and more clearly what is at stake for our state, the nature of this work and its importance are becoming more and more clear.

There are two aspects of the Climate Council's work that emerge as critical, and drive much of this funding need. One is the complexity of data collection and modelling, which turn out to be fundamental for guiding our state's efforts. This data will underlie the accountability that is a core concept of Act 153. It is important to get this right.

The second element of the Act whose importance has emerged is engagement. Act 153 appropriately calls for broad public input. It also emphasizes recognizing the needs of those Vermonters whose voices are rarely heard in these matters. This will take significant effort, and the funding to make that happen.

It is gratifying to see the administration recognizing and accepting the scale of this challenge, as well as the opportunity to meet this challenge through the work of the Climate Council. We strongly support the funding to make this happen.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for input in your deliberations. And thank you for all you do for our state!

Sincerely,

Steve Crowley