



Vermont Retail & Grocers Association  
963 Paine Turnpike N.  
Berlin, VT 05602

February 25, 2022

House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife  
Vermont Statehouse  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Support for H.482 – An act relating to the Petroleum Cleanup Fund

Dear members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife,

As a member of the Petroleum Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee representing the petroleum distributors and convenience stores in Vermont, I write in support of passage of H.482 – an act relating to the Petroleum Cleanup Fund.

The Petroleum Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee, this past fall, voted unanimously to support increasing the administrative fee from 6% to 10%. This increase is with the expectation that additional administrative funds will be allocated to assist in closing some of the 556 open sites statewide.

As the committee heard in previous testimony the Petroleum Cleanup Fund is nearing its \$7 million cap. Once the fund reaches the cap, the State is legislatively required to discontinue the collection of the 1 cent per gallon assessment on the distribution of gasoline, diesel fuel, and heating oil in Vermont.

With a decline in petroleum sold in Vermont the revenue coming into the Petroleum Cleanup Fund also declines. This results in less funding for the administration of the program. With fewer resources available administratively it will become harder to close and clean up these sites.

With more than 70% of open sites greater than twenty years old, and a forecasted decline in revenues into the fund, I strongly urge the committee to pass H.489 to help foster closures of open sites. Once closed, these lands can be properly and safely developed for use by communities around the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Sigrist | President  
Vermont Retail & Grocers Association  
Vermont Petroleum Association  
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