

**H.70 Public Comment**  
**House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife**

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:16 PM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: Advocation for H.70, a piece in the puzzle of legalizing sustainable / low-impact living

Greetings,

Please share this email with the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife.

H.70 will make a needed change to VT law and DEC rules by allowing people to legally live with water and wastewater setups as low-impact and affordable as many of the homes that are present and legal in our state.

Please see the proposal, which we 'translated' into H.70, at <https://www.change.org/p/vermont-legislature-change-the-vt-residential-water-wastewater-rules-to-allow-for-low-impact-living> . At this link you can read my rationale and some context, as well as see that there is support from others in the form of 74 signers and several comments.

Is there any additional information and perspective I can offer to help H.70 progress?

Sincerely,  
Tom Mosakowski  
Brattleboro resident

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Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:00 PM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: H.70 support

I am writing to strongly support this bill which will positively impact many nature loving Vermont home/yurt/cabin owners.  
thank you!  
Lisa Nigro

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Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 4:08 PM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: HB 70

I am writing to ask that you make HB70, about low-impact water and wastewater systems, a high priority for this session. I really would like to see more options for ecologically minded property owners.

Thank you!  
Janis Hall  
Brattleboro

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Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:11 AM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: BILL H.70 PLEA

Hello,

I am writing to you to beg for bill h.70 to be seen. It is a bill advocating for a revision to our waste water system. I moved my entire family here a few years back to pursue farming and a more sustainable life believing Vermont was the promise land for “going green” and living “environmentally friendly lives” only to find out that it is illegal to use my MINIMAL waste water for positive permaculture systems. The only legal way to have waste water is plumbed to a septic system that gets pumped and hauled away. Our water can be used for many positive systems on the property like aquaponic systems, flowing into swales for plants, and water pools for water loving plants, and plenty more. Please please please at least look at the bill.

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Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 7:43 PM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: Bill H.70

Hello there! My name is Meadow Linderman, I live with my boyfriend and we both feel that it is absolutely necessary that this bill, H.70 be passed. As human beings, we have a right to live harmoniously with nature, and this is a very obvious step in RESTORING our God given rights that have been taken away.

This bill goes far beyond restoring the freedoms to live as one with nature. It improves the ability for us Vermonter’s to continue raising generations of families in our state and keeping or values alive, by lowering the overall cost of housing substantially; simultaneously improving Vermont’s environment, as well as it’s vast gardening communities by providing rich compost.

As the focus on our physical and mental health of our People as a whole has become increasingly prominent in the last year, myself as well as many other Vermonter's have been researching, learning, asking ourselves and teaching those who are open what it means to be truly healthy.

I urge you to consider these benefits. There is an abundance of potential for all of us in passing this bill from creating jobs, raising environmental awareness, improving our over all Vermont mental and physical health and promoting the values that we as a people collectively have such as living healthy and sustainable lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Meadow Linderman  
(Fletcher VT)

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Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:07 AM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: Bill H.70

Hello,

There's a bill in the house, H.70, relating to the permitting of low impact wastewater systems. I'd love for this bill to get attention, as I believe it will help uplift folks who don't have the money for traditional systems.

Best,  
Jack Billings

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Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:11 AM  
To: House Natural Resources  
Subject: Advocation for H.70, a piece in the puzzle of legalizing sustainable / low-impact living

Good morning Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. After listening to it be presented, I want to clarify a couple points.

- A question was asked about setbacks or isolation distances. As stated in my previous email, this bill aims to establish enough clarity to ensure the intent is authorized while leaving technical details to the rulemakers. Perhaps this needs to be written into the bill with such language as below?

'the applicant or permit holder shall comply with other criteria and requirements adopted by the Secretary by rule for low-impact disposal systems.'

- A question was asked about the number of Vermonters this bill could affect or benefit. To my knowledge, there are no studies/data on this. I contacted the Maine department that wrote the referenced rules and they stated that they don't tally the number of their 'primitive' wastewater permits. One thing I can state for certain is that this change of statute/rules would have benefitted 100% of Vermont's first peoples' residences from about 10,000 years ago until relatively recently. Regarding the present day; since the percentage of people who currently, or aspire to, live in Vermont in a "low-impact" residence is a minority, I will simply appeal to the Committee to consider this bill a recognition of 'minority rights' and that, with some reasonable safeguards to be added by statute or rule, this bill poses no significant risk to public health.

Sincerely,  
Tom Mosakowski