

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Powell <mary@spotthedogvt.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 9:58 AM

To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>; june.tierney@vermont.gov

Subject: [External] Confirmation of Commissioner June Tierney

[External]

Dear Senator Ann Cummings and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing this email to express enthusiastic support for the nomination of Ms. June Tierney as Commissioner of Public Service for the State of Vermont. In June Tierney, Vermont has a loyal, dedicated, experienced, incredibly smart public servant at the helm of the Department of Public Service.

My experience with Commissioner Tierney dates back to my service at Green Mountain Power, which ended on December 31, 2019, after serving as CEO for 12 years, and at the company for 22 years. My service at the company began when Howard Dean was Governor and Richard Sedano was Commissioner. I interacted routinely with the regulators of the company, and their leadership, for almost 22 years working hard to bring about positive change for the Vermonters we all served. Over the course of my tenure I worked with eight different Commissioners of the Department of Public Service.

June Tierney exemplifies all that one would want to see in a chief regulator, she is laser focused on the importance of rigorous process, thorough oversight and she is a demanding but fair public advocate. For these reasons, working through important issues with Commissioner Tierney was never easy, but was always deeply respected. Commissioner Tierney puts a high value on input from others, respectful dialogue and achieving balanced and strong outcomes. Most important in my view, Commissioner June Tierney is able to skillfully balance the importance of rigor and process with the need for progress, innovation and driving real and meaningful change. One of the qualities I most admired when working with the Commissioner was her ability to always listen, be respectful and direct while setting a tone of team work, a feeling that we had a collective responsibility to accomplish important things for the Vermonters we served.

Over the last year, I have been engaged even more heavily in the fight against climate change, working with some larger energy companies and a number of start ups. I have had the opportunity to work with regulators and energy leaders in other states. Vermont is routinely held up by others as an example of a state where we can get things right, where we have gotten things right. Vermont is cited as a place where the utilities, working with the regulators and legislature have created innovative models for combatting climate change, increasing local renewable energy and keeping energy as affordable as possible. This is because of leaders like June Tierney, leaders who can balance the importance of regulatory rigor and oversight with the need for collaboration, and speed. There has never been a time I can think of where this has been needed more.

On a personal level , I was disheartened to read and view the testimony given the other day during the Senate Finance Committee opposing June Tierney's confirmation. In fact, it exemplified all that I hope we can move forward from as a state, and as concerned Vermont citizens. The tasks ahead of us, to combat climate change, to bring broadband to rural communities, to provide a cost effective and socially just system for Vermonters, these tasks become harder, these tasks sometimes become impossible, when we allow inaccurate attacks on the character of our public servants to dominate the conversation. The state, the world, the Vermonters we all care about deserve better from us, they deserve public servants who feel supported and encouraged to move faster, to collaborate and to drive meaningful change. June Tierney is a leader, a public servant, that deserves better from us.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with the committee on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Powell
South Hero, VT