

Senator Jeanette White, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Legislature of the State of Vermont

Senator White,

While I do appreciate the decorum and all Gail Carrigan's attempts and efforts, no Bill was available in a timely manner and further Testimony should be scheduled after the Constitutional beginning of the actual 2021 Special Session. This Committee has no official possession of 21-1038 and the designation of Committee as possessing the Bill should trigger another properly noticed Agenda of testimony and the official submittal of written testimony. In essence, today's discussion is not official, legal possession and a Committee vote should be scheduled before action is taken.

I specifically protest the nature of these proceedings which, while well-intended, are not what I would call Process, and preliminary in nature. In order to provide the traditional Citizen based human scale political democracy we all cherish as Vermonters, please acknowledge the limited and informal nature of today's "discussions", acknowledge they exist outside the notice of Constitutional Legislative procedures and announce the need for another round of testimony once the 2021 Special Session begins.

As for the rush to get to a lawfully passed Bill addressing these important issues, I must question the legitimacy of today's "discussions" unless followed by a legally acceptable process after the gavel has begun the 2021 Special Session on Monday November 22, 2021. Any thing less is an affront to the Committee process, public notice and input, legislative openness, statutory compliance with public records and mostly, an insult to Vermonters all over the state who demand Public Hearings and access to a Constitutional Legislative Process. How many Vermonters will you hear from except the "Select" few who appear today? I believe that is not a legacy that reflects your kind and open nature, nor is it a legacy you wish for your good name as a Senate Chair.

Please be open to extending the process to ensure Vermont Citizens, as stakeholders, feel they are being heard and not dictated to... I look forward to speaking further with you on these issue in the building Monday and well into the future. As always, thanks very much for your service and kind manner of dealing with such weighty issues.

In Liberty,

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