

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING S.172

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Todd Odit** <[todithvt@gmavt.net](mailto:todithvt@gmavt.net)>

Date: Wed, Jan 5, 2022 at 10:11 AM

Subject: Fwd: S.172

To: <[wlippert@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:wlippert@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[tchittenden@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tchittenden@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[vlyons@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:vlyons@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[cpearson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpearson@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[kram@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:kram@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[msirokin@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:msirokin@leg.state.vt.us)>, <[myantachka@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:myantachka@leg.state.vt.us)>

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

Please see my comments below regarding S.172.

Thank you,

Todd Odit  
Hinesburg Town Manager

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**From:** "khorn" <[khorn@vlct.org](mailto:khorn@vlct.org)>  
**To:** "Todd Odit" <[todithvt@gmavt.net](mailto:todithvt@gmavt.net)>  
**Cc:** "Gwynn Zakov" <[gzakov@vlct.org](mailto:gzakov@vlct.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 8:45:36 AM  
**Subject:** Re: S.172

Hi Todd,

The proposal was from Susan Clark, moderator in Middlesex who is all about preserving town meeting from the floor. The bill is on the Senate floor today and they hope to pass it and get it to the House. So if you sent this email to your reps and senators that would be helpful. At least they would have accurate information about the Hinesburg vote, and also possibly a Rockingham vote.

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**From:** Todd Odit <[todithvt@gmavt.net](mailto:todithvt@gmavt.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 8:36 AM  
**To:** Karen Horn <[khorn@vlct.org](mailto:khorn@vlct.org)>  
**Subject:** S.172

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Hi Karen,

Just writing to say that I think the Senate is wrong to exclude the question of voting by ballot from S.172. That basically freezes any municipality from voting on that question for the year unless they want to meet in person to vote on that one article. In addition, in consideration of being inclusive, this exclusion whether in S.172 or the underlying law, disenfranchises the voters who would most benefit voting by ballot from being able to vote on that question. I have heard that Hinesburg's vote came up yesterday, which is surprising because I had not been contacted by any committee member about it. But anyway, in our ballot vote in December, we had 407 votes cast. At a traditional town meeting, we have about 150 people attend. So we had almost twice the amount of people vote by ballot on the question than we would have had people vote on it from the floor. This clearly shows that people who don't or can't attend a traditional town meeting to vote on a question from the floor took the opportunity to vote by ballot.

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Todd Odit

Town Manager

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