



Testimony to Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

April 14, 2022

H. 518

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H. 518. We are tremendously grateful for the committee taking up this initiative. H. 518 is a bill that will put real targeted resources toward auditing municipal buildings and expanding the State Energy Management Program (SEMP) on energy efficiency improvements, renewable resources, and switching fuel sources to municipal buildings. We strongly support this legislation.

In 2019 and early 2020, VLCT discussed the potential for an expansion of the SEMP program to municipalities with Efficiency Vermont and the Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS). A locally focused program would have been welcomed then by municipalities, but lacked resources for implementation.

H. 518 would change the conversation altogether and assure access to reliable information, as well as technical assistance, energy auditing of municipal buildings, financing municipal heating system conversion projects, and addressing requirements to provide space for the public to conduct work, education, and health for five years. It would build on the successes of the Efficiency Vermont community level engagement and the state buildings SEMP program and its Green Revolving Investment Tracking System (GRITS*).

As well, with the successful deployment of the VLCT ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program, we are well situated to expand programming to helping with accessing funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and implementing recommendations of the Vermont Climate Action Plan. We have requested \$250,000 from the Senate Appropriations Committee to expand our ARPA program to a Federal Funding Assistance Program.

VLCT has a list of municipal buildings that are insured by our Property Casualty and Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF). The link to the list on the House Energy and Technology Committee website is below. It is the most comprehensive listing of municipal properties but does not include S. Burlington and Burlington. Many are buildings in which people work – town offices, town halls, recreation centers, libraries, and public works garages. It will be a subset of this list that would meet the requirements of the federal capitalization grants funds. The list will give you an indication of the scope of the need.

We are happy to work with the committee to secure passage of H. 518 and happy to answer questions.

**According to the BGS website, The GRITS tool makes it possible to: • Access and learn from the field-tested work of other institutions, • Facilitate investments in efficiency projects by enabling fund administrators to easily and clearly communicate with stakeholders, • Simplify calculations of project-specific carbon and financial savings on both annualized and estimated life-of-project timeframes, and • Create customized reports that tell the story of current and anticipated financial and environmental performance.*

List of Insured Buildings – Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Energy%20and%20Technology/Bills/H.518/Witness%20Documents/H.518~Karen%20Horn~VLCT%20Property%20Casualty%20and%20Intermunicipal%20Fund%20Insured%20Buildings%202022~1-18-2022.pdf>