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**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Finance
From: Gregg Faber, Vermont Public Utility Commission
Re: S.236
Date: February 5, 2024

During my prior testimony on S. 326, Committee members had questions regarding the frequency of Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) denials of Section 248 cases. In response to those questions, I have gathered the following information:

Since 2017 the PUC has approved approximately 300 Section 248 cases. These cases include large solar projects and wind projects, as well as utility substation and transmission projects. The PUC also approved approximately 55 smaller, ground-mounted net-metering projects sized between 15 and 150 kW, in addition to hundreds of rooftop systems up to 500 kW that can register for a CPG.

In that same time span, the PUC has denied 4 cases. However, only one project (Case 20-1261-NMP), a case involving a 500-kW solar net-metering project in Manchester, Vermont, was denied on the grounds of aesthetics. Three other cases were denied on grounds other than aesthetics. (Another case discussed by the Committee last week involved a 500-kW solar project in Bradford, Case 19-2659-NMP. The project was opposed by the Town of Bradford and the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission on the grounds that it would interfere with the orderly development of the region, and the petition was withdrawn by the developer before the PUC rendered a decision.)