

BIO

June E. Tierney was sworn in as the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service by Governor Phil Scott on January 5, 2017. Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Tierney served as general counsel to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (2012-2016). Before then, she was a PUC hearing officer (2008-2012), as well as a staff attorney at the Vermont Department of Public Service (2001-2008). A 1986 graduate of Boston University and a 1993 graduate of Vermont Law School, Commissioner Tierney began her legal career with a clerkship at the Vermont Supreme Court, followed by three years as an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City, where she specialized in securities fraud litigation, white collar crime defense and corporate internal compliance investigations. Before her admission to the bar, Commissioner Tierney enjoyed the privilege of serving on active duty (1986-1990) as a commissioned officer in the United States Army.

Accomplishments

Theme: # Implementing the law faithfully, # administering Federal Funding # focusing on equity

Law implementation:

Pandemic era- relief programs: utility arrearages and accelerated broadband deployment

CAPI carried customary case load AND administered VERAP-U.

Equity: Reached well over 10,000 VTers

Supported VCBB – committed to stay and support implementation of Act 71

Fully participated in Climate Council and prep of Climate Action Plan

Completed Comprehensive Energy Plan

Completed Potential Studies for efficiency savings in electricity and natural gas

Federal Funding (CRF/ARPA)

Decarbonization actions

Programs to support Electric Service Upgrades to Facilitate broad-based Participation by Vermonters in the Clean Energy Transition:

Load Management

Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy Program

Funding to be allocated by Clean Energy Development Board

Grants for Efficiency Vermont for Weatherization Services

Grants for Efficiency Vermont for Workforce Development

Grid Modernization

Weatherization Middle Income Incentives

Equity

- Designing a public engagement process to raise up voices of Vermonters as we develop clean & renewable electricity policy, as outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Plan
 - Multiple public education workshops – evening and daytime, on-line. Budgeting for a deliberative polling outreach.
- Implementing Act 154, Environmental Justice Legislation and better incorporate equity as a core decision making criteria
 - Initiated extensive public stakeholder engagement to update Vermont’s Commercial & Residential Building Energy Standards
 - Created Data and Equity Policy manager position
 - Mobile Wireless Cell Coverage
 - Wireless services are unevenly distributed throughout the state and tend to be located in more urbanized communities. Rural communities and especially those with higher percentages of lower income residents tend to have poorer service or no service at all. This negatively affects the rural quality of life. This is especially true with access to emergency services. Currently an estimated 40% of Vermonters do not have reliable cell service at home.

Goals

Continue pursuing IJJA funding and IRA funding. Example: TDI England Clean Energy Power Link

Regional Advocacy on winter fuel security and resiliency

Continue Climate Council engagement

Telecom 2024 and integrating with Act 71 and work of VCBB

Continue to advocate for expanding cell service

Prepare next generation regulators – that is why I am sending more policy experts to Legislature