

In a world fully engulfed in a climate crisis, in a state that has already exceeded its ecological carrying capacity, the Senate Natural Resources and Energy (SNRE) Committee voted 4-1 to advance S. 100 and, in doing so, removed protections for prime soils, which will no longer be protected under Act 250.

In a state that already cannot feed itself, we, as a result of S. 100 (The Home Act), are now even further handicapped with a sacrifice of food-growing land to development interests. Healthy soils, fundamentally critical to the water cycle and our own survival, along with healthy forests, are the only proven vehicles for carbon sequestration. They are now free to be converted to pavement and private profit.

This same committee, just weeks ago, with the support of the Senate, mostly along partisan lines, endorsed the burning of our forests for the profit of the utility industry through S.5, the Affordable Heat Act.

Paving soils and burning forests for development. Evict Nature and burn the living room furniture. This is the Senate Natural Resources Committee prescription for the climate and affordability crisis. It's clearly working for bankers and developers. For some reason they are not hampered

in hoarding evermore resources. Maybe it is our financial system and not our environmental protections that are the problem--in a state (and a country) where the rich get richer and the natural world and the rest of us are further exploited.

Extracting the last of Nature's capital and pocketing the profit, and all mortgaged on the false promise of a better tomorrow. S. 100 passed. SNRE failed.

Thank you, Senator MacDonald, for being the only one willing to vote against another false solution presented by your party leadership.

Contact your senators as S. 100 now proceeds to the full

Senate: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/> The committee members are addressed above for your convenience.

With gratitude, on behalf of those downstream,
James