

2.25.2026

To: Rep. Robin Scheu
Chair, House Appropriations

From: Rep. Kathleen James
Chair, House Energy and Digital Infrastructure

Re: Funding for H.740 (Agency of Natural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Reporting)

We often talk about climate action in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. It's true that we measure progress in this way — how we are succeeding or failing in reducing the air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels. It's an important number.

But climate action is grassroots work. We reduce harmful carbon pollution by helping people reduce their reliance on fossil fuels — one person, one household at a time. We weatherize drafty homes. We install heat pumps to warm and cool our buildings. We drive an EV or a gas car that uses less fuel.

These investments help the planet and help people save money, often a lot of money, over the long run. But there's an upfront cost, and this is where climate policy hits a brick wall:

Where do we find the penny so we can save the dime?

The answer is: We need better data. H.740 directs the Agency of Natural Resources to develop a GHG inventory that will gather simple sales data from fossil fuel suppliers in Vermont at a more **granular and useful level than before**. To be clear: This is data **that our fossil fuel dealers already have** — and are already reporting to state agencies like Tax.

H.740 directs ANR to develop this program through rulemaking, and to find the most effective way to gather these numbers from fossil fuel suppliers. It's one of the **top 10 recommendations in the newly updated 2025 state climate plan and called "foundational" by ANR and State Treasurer**. The FY27 budget ask is \$500,000 to give ANR the staff and resources it needs to start this important work.

Rep. Kathleen James
Chair: House Energy and Digital Infrastructure

KJames@leg.state.vt.us

Bennington-4: Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate and Sunderland