



Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure,

My name is Ross Connolly, and I serve as the Regional State Director for Americans for Prosperity. On behalf of hardworking Vermonters and our organization, I urge you to support H.16, an act to fully repeal the Affordable Heat Act.

Vermont families are already grappling with high energy costs, and the Affordable Heat Act only worsens the situation. By imposing costly mandates through the Clean Heat Standard, this policy drives up heating prices, burden small businesses, and expands government bureaucracy—all at taxpayers' expense. Repealing it is not just necessary, it's a beacon of hope to lower energy costs and ensure a fair, transparent, and accountable regulatory environment.

Another crucial aspect of this legislation is the protection of taxpayer privacy. The repeal of the Affordable Heat Act removes the provision that allowed the Commissioner to disclose tax return information to the Public Utility Commission and the Department of Public Service. Vermonters should not have to compromise their privacy in the face of overreach and red tape.

Additionally, H.16 eliminates government waste by eliminating unnecessary positions created under the 2023 Act 18. These roles, established to enforce compliance with the Clean Heat Standard, do not serve the people's interests and only add more costs to an already bloated bureaucracy.

We are deeply grateful to Representative Jim Harrison for his unwavering support and advocacy for this much-needed reform. Vermonters deserve an energy policy that prioritizes their needs—one that focuses on affordability, economic growth, and individual choice over excessive government interference. The repeal of the Affordable Heat Act is a significant victory for families, businesses, and the future of our state.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support and favorably recommend H.16. Your support is crucial in putting Vermonters back in control of their energy choices.

Ross Connolly
Regional State Director for the Northeast
Americans for Prosperity