



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, a nonpartisan organization that advocates for policies that promote economic freedom and individual liberty. I am writing to express support for H.52, an act that reframes Vermont's greenhouse gas emission requirements as goals rather than rigid mandates. This critical legislation brings much-needed flexibility and accountability to Vermont's approach to addressing climate change.

Vermont's current emissions mandates are unrealistic and punitive, forcing policies that may not be financially or logistically viable for businesses, communities, or state agencies. By shifting from strict requirements to ambitious yet achievable goals, H.52 ensures that Vermont remains committed to reducing emissions while allowing for common-sense solutions that work for everyone — not just the government in Montpelier.

H.52 ensures that all state agencies consider emissions impacts in their decision-making whenever practical. This legislation encourages responsible environmental stewardship without imposing harmful mandates that raise costs and stifle innovation. Additionally, by requiring the Vermont Climate Council to update the Climate Action Plan every four years, this legislation fosters adaptability in the approach to climate solutions. It ensures that policymakers respond to emerging technologies, economic realities, and Vermonters' needs, providing a sense of reassurance about the legislation's future-proofing.

Another critical component of this legislation is the repeal of 10 V.S.A. § 594, which previously allowed legal action against the state for not meeting emissions targets. Lawsuits are not a climate strategy. H. 52 promotes a collaborative approach to climate progress, not litigation. This repeal will prevent costly legal battles that drain taxpayer resources without delivering real environmental benefits, fostering a sense of collective responsibility and shared commitment among all stakeholders.

H.52 is a thoughtful, balanced approach that prioritizes innovation over regulation, flexibility over rigidity, and accountability over legal threats. It ensures Vermont remains committed to environmental progress without burdening families, businesses, and local governments.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support and favorably recommend H.52. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this legislation when it comes before the committee. Let's move forward with a realistic and achievable climate policy.

Ross Connolly
Regional State Director for the Northeast
Americans for Prosperity