

Hello Chair James and Committee members

H.527 has been a roller coaster, as your committee knows best. PUC doesn't want rulemaking and Greg Faber doesn't seem to recognize there is an issue so it doesn't even seem he would try to fix all the problems you guys heard.

Department of public service has no authority. and 3 years ago they did a stakeholder process to try and fix things and nothing happened. Please don't give it to them. This can has been kicked down the road for more than a decade.

Attached is a bare minimum statute change for consideration that would offer a start of a solution to fix the many issues.

Vermonters for a clean environment, in working with the towns and neighbors, has one primary goal besides allowing for an accessible public process that doesn't take money and lawyers, and that's to make it clear to the tower companies that they need to do a better job finding sites and engaging with communities so that by the time they file a petition, they are not in a legal fight. We are trying to stop all this endless litigation.

I have attached some top priority statute change ideas for Ellen to incorporate into section 248a. These changes with a check back in 3 years to evaluate would immediately make a difference for the process.

I hope you will consider and please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help. Hoping for a real resolution this session, we have been trying for years to fix these problems.

Gratefully
Alison Despathy
Vermonters for a Clean Environment
Community and Environmental Health Director