



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. I am writing to express strong support for H.65, which revokes Vermont's adoption of California's Clean Air Act waiver and reclaims Vermont's authority over its motor vehicle emission standards.

First, I sincerely thank Representative Mark Higley for introducing this critical legislation. Vermont must be free to make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of Vermonters, not California regulators.

By prohibiting the Secretary of Natural Resources from adopting California's emission rules, as outlined under the Clean Air Act, H.65 ensures that Vermont is not bound by one-size-fits-all standards that do not consider our unique rural economy, climate, and transportation needs. These standards, designed for a vastly different state, would impose unnecessary costs and restrictions on Vermont's economy and way of life. This bill wisely amends several statutes, including 10 V.S.A. § 567 and § 558, to prevent these impractical standards from further taking root in Vermont's policies.

Further, this legislation protects Vermont's right to create balanced environmental policies by impacting the Vermont Climate Action Plan under 10 V.S.A. § 592. It guarantees that even if the Plan is not adopted or updated, the Secretary cannot impose California's vehicle emission standards on our communities. This foresight prevents regulatory overreach and ensures that Vermont's approach remains tailored to Vermonters' needs.

By repealing the Vermont Low Emission Vehicle and Zero Emission Vehicle Rules, H.65 paves the way for Vermont to adopt a more flexible and practical approach to reducing vehicle emissions. This approach, focusing on innovation and local solutions, empowers Vermont to take control of its environmental policies, rather than being dictated by rigid external mandates. This thoughtful approach will benefit Vermont's families, businesses, and economy by avoiding unnecessary costs and promoting a more inclusive path forward.

This bill provides a clear, sensible timeline for transitioning away from California's standards, allowing stakeholders ample time to adapt and plan accordingly. Vermont needs and deserves thoughtful leadership that respects its people's voices and values, and this bill is a step in that direction.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support and favorably recommend H.65. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this important legislation when it comes before the committee. Let's keep Vermont's future in Vermont's hands.

Ross Connolly
Regional State Director for the Northeast
Americans for Prosperity