

My name is Astrid Longstreth. I live in West Bolton, and attend Mount Mansfield Union High School as a sophomore.

One of the topics that the Youth Lobby has been focusing on recently is the Climate Superfund Act, as it faces lawsuits and pushback from our federal government and big oil corporations. That is why we are participating in the national Make Polluters Pay Week of Action - to make sure our state leaders know how important this law is to our future, Vermont's future, and to stand in solidarity with states across the country who are following in our footsteps by advancing climate superfund bills and working to hold big oil companies accountable for their damaging actions. I want to thank state lawmakers and leaders for not backing down to the federal government and fossil fuel corporations.

As youth in Vermont, the continued implementation of the Climate Superfund Act represents a step forward for protecting the future of the planet and the next generation. We will be the ones inheriting an earth with a warming climate, with polluted air, and rising sea levels. But we should not have to be the ones to bear the responsibility for it. This is why the Climate Superfund Act is so important: it makes those who are truly at fault for the continued impacts of climate change be part of the solution. It seeks reparations for Vermonters who have already suffered so much at the hands of climate change. With the funds generated from compensation from fossil fuel companies, Vermont can better prepare for future impacts of climate change by investing in infrastructure and efforts that will increase our climate resilience .

At a time when federal action is moving against, rather than for climate advocacy, activism is more essential than ever. This is not a time to be idle, to wait for things to improve, because they won't unless we do something. The future is not just something that is going to happen: it is something that we can shape, and take action to protect, while there is still time to do so. This must happen not just for Vermont, not just for youth, not just for people, but for the earth itself: taking steps forward to stop climate change will benefit everyone who calls this planet our home.

The Climate Superfund is an extremely important policy. However, it cannot be implemented without sufficient funding, which is why I ask the Legislature and Governor to ensure that the Agency of Natural Resources receives enough funds to be able to implement it successfully.

Additionally, I would like to thank all of the legislators who have fought to pass Vermont's current climate laws. These are essential in our journey to protecting the planet and stopping climate change, and more action must be taken in the future if we are to complete this journey. The Climate

Action Plan is an important document, one that outlines many recommendations for future action to fight climate change and respond to its effects. One of these recommendations is on creating a greenhouse gas reporting requirement for the transportation and heating sectors. Currently, these two sectors contribute the largest percent of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions, yet we have the least amount of data on them. Without the collection of further information on the transportation and heating sectors, we will not be able to successfully curb the emissions generated by them. This policy would provide information that can support better local and statewide planning, as well as future policies and regulations. Taking this step forward is essential in order for Vermont to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and costs in the transportation and thermal sectors.

Again, thank you for your time and hard work, and I hope that you will take this testimony into consideration!