

Ways & Means Committee
Vermont State House
115 State St, Montpelier, VT 05633

February 19, 2025

Ways & Means Committee Members:

Recently draft bill DR 25-0152 was introduced to the Ways and Means Committee.

While I have several issues with this draft bill, for the purposes of this letter I am stepping up to defend the Listers of the state of Vermont.

Draft language: **Page 1 line 15 & 16** – It is the intent of the General Assembly in adopting this subchapter to create regional assessment districts so that:

Page 2 line 1 - (3) property valuation is conducted by professional staff.

This line (page 2 line 1) is erroneous, disparaging and highly prejudicial to the Listers of the State of Vermont. It serves no other purpose than to create a divide and is an attempt to stack the deck towards professional Assessors while insinuating Listers are unprofessional – all for the purpose of pushing this bill through.

I feel the need to clear up – once and for all – the difference between a Lister and a professional Assessor.

It was 1996 when I first became a Lister in the Town of Georgia Vermont and where I remained a Lister until 2003.

In 2003 I was hired as a professional Assessor for the City of South Burlington where I remained for the next 18 years.

The difference between a Lister and a professional Assessor can be defined as the point in time when I accepted the position of professional Assessor for the City of South Burlington.

An instant.

A moment in time.

One second, I was a Lister and the next second I was a professional Assessor.

The moral of my story is that there is no difference between a Lister and an Assessor other than an election or a job offer - None.

The State of Vermont certifies Listers and Assessors as equal and qualifies both through the Vermont Property Assessor Certification Program for Listers and Assessors.

It is time to stop utilizing the term Lister as derogatory. Listers possess the same abilities and responsibilities as professional Assessors.

They are one in the same - and they are Professional.

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Previous President Vermont Assessor & Lister Association (VALA) – 2 years

Current Sitting Past President of the Vermont Assessor & Lister Association (VALA) – 5 plus years