



AGC/VT

**THE VERMONT CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION**

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy
From: Richard J. Wobby, Jr
Date: April 21, 2026
RE: H.718 – An act relating to building energy efficiency

The Associated General Contractors of Vermont supports Vermont’s energy-efficiency and consumer-protection goals, and we want to be a practical, constructive partner in getting there. Contractors are the ones who will be asked to carry out what is envisioned in H.718, so it is critical that the policy be workable, properly funded, and aligned with the Office of Professional Regulation’s (OPR) actual capacity.

Based on OPR’s own testimony, the current contractor registry is already stretched thin. It is enforcement-heavy, under-resourced, and operating at a deficit. Before expanding responsibilities, the State needs to stabilize and fix the system that already exists. Layering new mandates onto an overextended registry risks uneven enforcement, poor implementation, and ultimately weakens, rather than strengthens, consumer protection.

H.718 would also significantly broaden OPR’s role by adding education, training, and certification requirements that look and feel like licensure. Under Act 182, contractors are registrants, not licensees. Blurring that line without making an explicit policy decision to move toward licensure creates confusion, adds compliance burdens, and exposes contractors to requirements the State may not be equipped to administer.

OPR has also been clear that it does not have the technical expertise to develop or deliver energy-efficiency training. That work is better suited to organizations with building-science and energy expertise, such as Efficiency Vermont, the Department of Public Service, or qualified industry professionals. OPR’s lane should remain regulation and enforcement, not curriculum development.

Act 182 envisioned specialty certifications as voluntary. H.718 risks turning those certifications into de facto mandates without a clear understanding of cost, training capacity, or workforce impacts. At a time when Vermont is already facing a serious construction labor shortage, policies that raise barriers to entry will make it harder, not easier, to meet our housing and climate goals.

Contractors will ultimately bear the burden of compliance, and their experience in the field is essential to developing requirements that actually work. We appreciate the inclusion of AGC/VT on the Task Force and view that collaboration as essential, not optional.

Finally, timelines matter. Contractors need certainty and sufficient lead time to train employees, adjust business practices, and update contracts. A minimum 12-month implementation window is necessary to avoid unnecessary disruption to projects and the workforce.

Clear funding, defined roles, preserved distinctions between registration and licensure, realistic timelines, and meaningful contractor input are prerequisites for success. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and are happy to answer any questions.

Thank you
R. Wobley



*Thank you, for your time, consideration and
patience. If I can be of any further help on this
please call: 802-793-5659
Richard Wobley, Jr.*