

To: Vermont Legislature, Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
From: Sandra Levine, Conservation Law Foundation
Date: April 5, 2012
Re: H. 468 – An act relating to the Vermont Energy Act of 2012

1. Strong Renewable Energy Legislation Needed

Over the next decade, our energy supply is in transition. Moving quickly toward more clean, renewable energy is needed to address climate change and keep down costs and pollution.

2. Tackle Climate Change and Reduce Carbon

This is the primary goal. It is a key yardstick to measure success. It is the focus of the Vermont Energy Plan. It is the expectation of Vermonters for action from state leaders to leave a Vermont to our children that is healthy, clean and prosperous. We can't wait another twenty years or push these problems off to our children

3. Strengthen the Renewable Portfolio Standard

A strong RPS is a cost effective way to encourage renewable development. An RPS sets a clear and understandable standard for renewable supply and keeps Vermont in step with other states in responsibly addressing climate change. The current bill would leave Vermont with the weakest RPS in the region. It is time to strengthen the RPS to ensure we get consistent and affordable clean energy to meet our needs.

4. Rate Impact

Experience of other states and the report from the Public Service Board show that a strong RPS would have a limited impact on rates. Vermont economy – including ski areas, maple producers and Irene ravaged areas – are suffering now from the effects of climate change. This is not someone else's problem to deal with or something we can delay for future generations.

5. Oppose Delay

No reason to delay replacing SPEED with RPS. To simplify process, to address climate change, and to have clear and binding standards, it is important to move quickly. SPEED alone has no impact on climate. The longer we rely on SPEED the longer we are part of the problem instead of part of the solution.

6. Recommendations

- a. Strengthen renewable standard
- b. Move more quickly to ramp up
- c. Oppose delay in implementing RPS