

From: [Mishaan, Jessica](#)
To: ["jamie@prwatch.org"](mailto:jamie@prwatch.org)
Subject: response to your public records request
Date: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 10:22:57 AM
Attachments: [PRA response 5-6-15.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Corey,

Attached please find records in response to your public records act request of Governor Shumlin's Office. We have redacted personal contact information pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(7).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jessica Mishaan

Jessica Mishaan | Paralegal
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
802.828.3333

Thank you for your letter about the risks posed by climate change and the importance of Vermont doing its part to address this problem. As you know, I share those concerns and believe climate change is the single greatest long term challenge facing our state and our world.

You also suggest eliminating companies related to fossil fuel production from Vermont's pension fund investments. As you may know, the Vermont Pension Investment Committee, along with state Treasurer Beth Pearce, are primarily responsible for overseeing our pension system.

I do appoint members of that committee to help guide investment decisions. I trust and rely on the expertise of the panel, and Treasurer Pearce with whom I work closely, to examine how we can use the smart investment of state funds to move Vermont and the world toward a cleaner, greener economy, while still meeting our obligation to pay for the retirements of hard working municipal, state and education workers in the most responsible way for taxpayers.

Thank you again for advocacy. I will keep your concerns in mind as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

Thank you for your letter regarding clean and renewable energy. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once – among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective. I agree we must do more to encourage clean, innovative, local renewable energy.

Toward these efforts, I have proposed the Energy Innovation Program (EIP) to replace the current SPEED program, which is set to expire in 2017. The EIP will establish new renewable electricity requirements for Vermont and as a result do more to harness the economic potential of our clean energy economy. I am proud of this innovative program my administration has proposed. If implemented, it will create over 1,000 new jobs, save Vermonters hundreds of millions of dollars on their energy bills and cut greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 15 million metric tons. We will achieve all this while prioritizing community-scale, local renewable energy and setting incentives for utilities to help customers save money and cut fossil fuel use.

Vermont is already a leader in regulating greenhouse gas emissions through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program. RGGI is successful, in large part, because the states within the RGGI region have been able to work together to build a regional program. We recognize that Vermont makes up a small part of the emissions in the region, and we are committed to working with the other states to keep RGGI strong. As a small state with a strong environmental ethic, it is important that we take the opportunity to provide leadership to the group, and we will continue to do that.

Thank you again for your comments. I agree we must do more to support renewable energy solutions. My EIP program would encourage renewable growth while recognizing the unique needs of our ratepayers and businesses. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I look forward to working together on this issue moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me again in the future if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3333

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on wind energy in Vermont. I believe there is no greater challenge and opportunity to Vermont and our world than the challenge to change the way we use and produce energy.

As you know, any form of power generation will have some environmental impacts. We need to find sources that will mitigate those impacts as much as possible. Vermont must come together to find local, clean, low-emission, renewable energy to reduce our carbon footprint and spur the local economy. Wind power would be one way to accomplish that here in Vermont along with the combined effort solar power, hydropower, and biomass energy. This mixed portfolio allows each form to demonstrate its own unique benefit to the state as an efficient renewable energy resource. Investing in this array of renewable resources is imperative for the sustainability of Vermont's energy production moving forward, and I believe that halting development would be irresponsible. The decisions we make now to fortify a clean energy portfolio, freed from fossil fuel dependence, comprise the foundation of a long-term commitment to Vermonters in the face of a climate change reality.

Ultimately, I believe that Vermont must weigh the benefits of wind energy against the concerns of communities in which wind projects are proposed, and the Department of Public Service will continue to advocate for Vermonters and work to ensure that concerns raised by host communities are thoroughly considered in the process. As I have said before, I do not favor moving forward with a wind project that a host community does not want. I believe that it is critical to act according to our common goals and shared interest in a resilient natural environment and clean, renewable energy future.

With Vermonters' collective common sense, I am confident we will succeed in leading the United States in renewable energy and energy efficiency innovation. With this goal in mind, I created the Governor's Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission. The five member commission spent several months reviewing and assessing the best practices for the siting of electric generation projects and issued a report with recommendations for improving Vermont's energy permitting processing system. I am hopeful that the good work of the commission, and the legislative committee work building upon that report, will help resolve some of these issues moving forward as local communities take an active role in the energy planning process. My administration is closely monitoring all these developments and is aware of the perspective of those living in close proximity to wind projects.

Thanks again for your letter. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3333

Thank you for contacting my office regarding my support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

I believe that climate change is real and a major concern for humanity. We here in Vermont understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I fully support the Environmental Protection Agency's plan, and believe we must do more, not less, to address this critical issue.

Thank you again for your advocacy, and I encourage you to continue it at the local, state, and federal levels. Please don't hesitate to reach out if our office can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3333

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Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
802-828-3333

December 1, 2014

Dan Ashe, Director
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Room 3331
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) cordially invite you to the 28th Annual National Boating Access Conference on Lake Champlain, September 21 – 24, 2015. The conference will be held at the historic family-owned Basin Harbor Club, 25 miles south of Burlington, VT. The theme is Green Access, Clean Boating, Blue Waters and will have a focus on climate change adaptation.

We would be delighted if you could attend the opening reception on the evening of Sept 21st, and participate in the conference kick-off the following morning at 9 am. The reception is an informal gathering and would give you an opportunity to meet with SOBA members and partners. The opening of the conference on September 22nd would provide you with the opportunity to speak directly to members of my administration who will attend the conference, along with state, federal, and NGO partners from around the country.


The three-day conference will be preceded by a one-day federal aid workshop on September 21st. The daylong workshop is run by WSFR staff and includes a variety of topics related to WSFR boating programs and its state partners. The day will end with a reception at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, a world class institution that chronicles and preserves the 12,000 year human history in the Champlain Valley.

Your participation would be a rare opportunity for all in attendance and we hope you will consider attending. If you have any questions, or to RSVP, please contact Mike Wichrowski, Lands and Facilities Administrator for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife at [HYPERLINK "&" \l "109;ailto:mike.wichrowski@state.vt.us"](mailto:mike.wichrowski@state.vt.us) mike.wichrowski@state.vt.us or (802) 917-1347.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

Mr. John J E. Curry


Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1201

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter regarding the EPA's clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once -- among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective. While our state does not have any power plants of a significant size that would be affected by the proposed rules, I support the EPA's effort to cut carbon pollution from power plants, an approach Vermont has already championed through our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program.

Vermont is already a leader in regulating greenhouse gas emissions through the RGGI program. RGGI is successful, in large part, because the states within the RGGI region have been able to work together to build a regional program. I welcome the EPA's decision to regulate carbon from power plants and it will only galvanize our efforts as a region. We recognize that Vermont makes up a small part of the emissions in the region, and we are committed to working with the other states to keep RGGI strong. As a small state with a strong environmental ethic, it is important that we take the opportunity to provide leadership to the group, and we will continue to do that.

Toward these efforts, I have proposed the Energy Innovation Program (EIP) to replace the current SPEED program, which is set to expire in 2017. The EIP will establish new renewable electricity requirements for Vermont and as a result do more to harness the economic potential of our clean energy economy. I am proud of this innovative program my administration has proposed. If implemented, it will create over 1,000 new jobs, save Vermonters hundreds of millions of dollars on their energy bills and cut greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 15 million metric tons. We will achieve all this while prioritizing community-scale, local renewable energy and setting incentives for utilities to help customers save money and cut fossil fuel use.

Thank you for your comments. I agree we must support the EPA in its efforts. Climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I look forward to working together on this issue

moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me again in the future if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin

Governor

February 9, 2015

Mr. Chuck Clarke
[REDACTED]

Waitsfield, VT 05673-7400

Dear Chuck,

Thank you for your letter regarding the EPA's clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once — among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective. While our state does not have any power plants of a significant size that would be affected by the proposed rules, I support the EPA's effort to cut carbon pollution from power plants, an approach Vermont has already championed through our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program.

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from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I look forward to working together on this issue moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me again in the future if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

April 6, 2015

Robert Larrabee

Winooski, VT

Dear Robert,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding my support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

I believe that climate change is real and a major concern for humanity. We here in Vermont understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I fully support the Environmental Protection Agency's plan, and believe we must do more, not less, to address this critical issue.

Thank you again for your correspondence. Please don't hesitate to reach out if our office can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/GG

April 15, 2015

Donald Knaack


Manchester Center, VT 05255-2074

Dear Donald,

Edit your content here

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, our nation has come together on Earth Day to appreciate and raise awareness about our environment, natural heritage, and the resources upon which we depend; and

WHEREAS, as Vermont works to recover from the worst natural disasters that have ever hit our state, it is important to recognize our role in climate change and our responsibility to craft policies that reduce our environmental impact and focus on renewable sources of energy and transportation; and

WHEREAS, every Vermonter deserves clean air, safe water and unpolluted land, and each person can take steps to protect those precious resources; and

WHEREAS, by investing in the clean energy economy, Vermont can be a national leader in reducing our dependence on foreign oil and protecting our environment while creating good paying jobs for the 21st century; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2015 as

EARTH DAY

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont
on this 14th day of April, A.D. 2015.

Peter Shumlin

Governor

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin

December 22, 2014

Ms. Elizabeth A. Frank

Orwell, VT 05760-9787

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for writing to me about climate change. As you well know, climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. Vermont has shown that efforts to counteract climate change can help our economy prosper, even as they protect our environment. Last year the White House appointed me to the Climate Preparedness and Resilience task force along with seven other governors and many other local officials and tribal representatives. While there is still much more to do, I am proud that we have been recognized nationally for our efforts.

As governor I am committed to continuing to ensure a vibrant and productive agricultural, environmental, and economic future for our state, the success of which depends on investments in sustainable technology, green and renewable energy, and energy efficient strategies. Conserving and preserving our natural resources throughout this process is a top priority of my administration, and will remain a critical factor in the consideration of infrastructure, agriculture, and community development projects moving forward. As part of these efforts, I created a Climate Cabinet in 2011 including secretaries and commissioners from the agencies of Natural Resources, Commerce and Community Development, Agriculture, and Transportation, and the departments of Public Service and Health. The Cabinet is charged with planning for adaptation and climate change strategies as well as monitoring Vermont's progress in meeting these goals.

I have asked a member of my Climate Cabinet to reach out to you on my behalf; unfortunately my schedule does not permit a meeting in December. You will be hearing from someone at the Agency of Natural Resource shortly. I appreciate your advocacy on this matter. Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me. I will keep them in mind as we chart a course toward a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

December 22, 2014

Angela Bull

New Haven, VT

Dear Angela,

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to tax carbon. While some proposals put forward have cited improvements to our economy as a whole, I do not support an approach that doesn't include our regional partners. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once – among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective.

Climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. While we may disagree, I believe a carbon tax would force us all to look at how our own actions affect our environment. However, I do not support such a tax as a unilateral action for Vermont to pursue on its own. I would support a regional approach if the plan could also be a boon to our economy. I am cognizant that many Vermonters get their gas from across the Connecticut River and a carbon tax would only exacerbate that loss of revenue. However, economically efficient regulation of carbon could be a step in the right direction to encourage dependence on cleaner, cheaper, greener, more local energy.

Thanks again for your comments. I will keep them in mind as we chart a clean energy future that improves our economy while it improves the health of our planet. I also appreciate your comments on taxes in general, I will keep them in mind as we press forward with our ambition to make Vermont a healthier, more affordable, sustainable place to raise a family. If my office can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

December 22, 2014

Dennis Chilson

Shrewsbury, VT

Dear Dennis,

Thank you for contacting me and sharing your concerns about property taxes and affordability in general. We all know that rising property taxes to fund education have put an unsustainable burden on Vermonters. There are also a number of other issues that have compounded to contribute to the ongoing affordability crisis in our state. The good news is that our economy continues to recover, but many of our middle class families have yet to feel the effects of the recovery in their wallets. I ran my latest campaign on the idea that we must provide all Vermonters with the opportunity for jobs, financial stability and the right to affordable, quality healthcare. My task this legislative session is to work with lawmakers to double down on reforms that will support working Vermonters.

I agree that now is not the right time to implement a publicly-financed health care system, based on the tax burden it would have placed on Vermonters. However addressing healthcare affordability is still be one of my biggest priorities. I believe we have an opportunity to put in place further health care reforms to achieve a better, fairer, and less-costly health care system. In order for us to get there, we must accelerate the hard work we've begun on cost containment and a more rational payment and delivery system. In the coming months, I plan on pursuing initiatives that I believe will help us build upon the progress that we've made so far including enhancing the Green Mountain Care Board's role as a central regulator, pursuing an all-payer waiver with the federal government to move towards quality-based reimbursement, and strengthening our commitment to the Blueprint for Health to support community health teams and medical homes.

In regard to the carbon tax, climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. While we may disagree, I believe a carbon tax would force us all to look at how our own actions affect our environment. However, I do not support such a tax as a unilateral action for Vermont to pursue on its own. I would support a regional approach if the plan could also be a boon to our economy. I am cognizant that many Vermonters get their gas from across the Connecticut River and a carbon tax would only exacerbate that loss of revenue. However,

economically efficient regulation of carbon could be a step in the right direction to encourage dependence on cleaner, cheaper, greener, more local energy.

As you well know, we have much more work to do to conquer the affordability crisis in our state. It is the single greatest challenge any governor faces, and I can assure you I won't rest until working Vermonters are able to feel the benefits of their hard work. I hope that you will consider staying in Vermont. I know that the reforms we have put in place are taking effect and we have big problems that still need to be solved, but we can work together to come to creative solutions. Thank you again for your comments, I will keep them in mind as we press forward with our ambition to make Vermont a healthier, more affordable, sustainable place to raise a family. Please don't hesitate to reach out if my office can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

April 13, 2015

Hilary Solomon

Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District

P.O. Box 209

Poultney, Vermont 05764

Dear Hilary,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Climate Change Summit sponsored by Vermont Council on Rural Development.

I have been pleased with the cooperation and collaboration among all levels of stakeholders - development, conservation, community groups, farmers, foresters, businesses, state and local governments and the public. We understand the high price of climate change, and I am grateful for the support I receive from PWNRC and others. Your efforts to improve resiliency in our local towns makes a real difference.

Thanks again for your note, and keep up your good work!

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin

Governor

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lk

February 27, 2015

Paul Costello

Vermont Council on Rural Development

P.O. Box 1384

Montpelier, Vermont 05601

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your kind note following VCRD's Summit on "Creative Opportunity and Prosperity Confronting Climate Change." It was a great event!

I understand the summit was very successful in advancing the conversation on the impact of climate change and how Vermont might prosper while addressing this crisis. I am glad I could be a small part of this important event.

Thanks again for your thoughtful note.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin

Governor

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lk

December 22, 2014

Mr. Robert B. Devost

Jericho, VT

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to tax carbon. While some proposals put forward have cited improvements to our economy as a whole, I do not support an approach that doesn't include our regional partners. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once – among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective.

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Thanks again for your comments. I will keep them in mind as we chart a clean energy future that improves our economy while it improves the health of our planet. I also appreciate your comments on property tax reform, I can assure you it is a priority for me and my administration. If my office can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin

Governor

PS/lg

December 26, 2014

Susan-Rae Glinka
[REDACTED]

Colchester, VT 05446-7067

Dear Susan-Rae,

Thank you for your letter regarding the EPA's clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once — among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective. While our state does not have any power plants of a significant size that would be affected by the proposed rules, I support the EPA's effort to cut carbon pollution from power plants, an approach Vermont has already championed through our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program.

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Thank you for your comments. I agree we must support the EPA in its efforts. Climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I look forward to working together on this issue moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me again in the future if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

February 12, 2015

Mr. Justin P. Heininger

[REDACTED]
Hinesburg, VT 05461-9719

Dear Justin,

Thank you for your letter regarding clean and renewable energy. I have passed on your thoughts regarding town and tribal conservation forests to my Commissioner of Forest, Parks, and Recreation. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once – among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective. I agree we must do more to encourage clean, innovative, local renewable energy.

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Thank you again for your comments. I agree we must do more to support renewable energy solutions. My EIP program would encourage renewable growth while recognizing the unique needs of our ratepayers and businesses. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I look forward to working

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Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/AD

April 6, 2015

Al Korzonas


Homer Glen, IL

Dear Al,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding my support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

I believe that climate change is real and a major concern for humanity. We here in Vermont understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I fully support the Environmental Protection Agency's plan, and believe we must do more, not less, to address this critical issue.

Thank you again for your correspondence. Please don't hesitate to reach out if our office can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/GG

April 21, 2015

Mr. Raymond L. Leonard Jr.


Center Rutland, VT 05736-0215

Dear Raymond,

Thank you for including me on your letter to House Speaker Smith. I apologize for the delay. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on the very real challenges facing Vermonters.

I believe it is important to look at the issue of rising property taxes as part of the much broader issue of education spending. I have proposed ideas to that effect and I am encouraged the legislature agrees and is considering measures to bring education spending under control. However, we must still focus reform efforts on creating a 21st century school system in Vermont, one that delivers high quality education for our children more efficiently.

In general I agree we should encourage high quality businesses to develop in our state. I also believe Vermont's distinctive sense of place, quality of life and brand is tied to its historic development pattern of compact centers surrounded by working lands. Act 250 in general and Criterion 9(L) in particular encourage sound development that bolsters Vermont's economy because it encourages new development in existing settlement; saves tax payers money by getting more use out of existing infrastructure; and safeguards millions invested in our centers. 9(L) requires a project to make efficient use of land and does not prohibit development. Since July 2014 when the new criteria became law, no development in the state has been denied an Act 250 permit because of this new criteria. Over 190 projects have gone through Act 250 since July.

The particular Rutland case that you refer to has been approved to move forward. As background, Saxon Partners proposes to build a BJ's wholesale club in Rutland on land that is subject to an Act 250 permit for a mini-mall that was never built. Because the design has changed from what was originally permitted, an Act 250 permit amendment is required. This amendment was recently granted.

I also appreciate your comments on solar development. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time and I am committed to solutions including weatherization, energy efficiency, clean renewable energy, and cooperation with our neighboring states and Canadian provinces. In Vermont, solar power is one tool for achieving our goals, including reaching goals set in law to reduce emissions 75 percent by 2050. Solar has helped us

reduce our peak energy demand, and in combination with energy efficiency saved Vermonters \$16 million by deferring the need for new transmission projects. Solar has also helped create more than 1,500 jobs in Vermont.

I understand your concerns, and I believe that we can continue to grow our use of solar energy while also working to ensure that communities and adjacent land owners have a voice in the process. I have confidence in the Public Service Board, and my administration is also working with the legislature to further improve the regulatory framework for siting projects.

Thank you again for your advocacy on these issues. If my office can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

April 21, 2015

██████████@hotmail.com

Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting my office. I appreciate your comments on solar development.

I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time and I am committed to solutions including weatherization, energy efficiency, clean renewable energy, and cooperation with our neighboring states and Canadian provinces. In Vermont, solar power is one tool for achieving our goals, including reaching goals set in law to reduce emissions 75 percent by 2050. Solar has helped us reduce our peak energy demand, and in combination with energy efficiency saved Vermonters \$16 million by deferring the need for new transmission projects. Solar has also helped create more than 1,500 jobs in Vermont.

I understand your concerns, and I believe that we can continue to grow our use of solar energy while also working to ensure that communities and adjacent land owners have a voice in the process. I have confidence in the Public Service Board, and my Administration is also working with the legislature to further improve the regulatory framework for siting projects. For concerns with specific projects, it is best to contact the Department of Public Service which represents the public in energy project proceedings before the Public Service Board. Please know I will keep your thoughts in mind as we press forward:

Again, thank you for your correspondence. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if I can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/GG

December 26, 2014

Ms. Mary A. Eldredge

Springfield, VT 05156-9343

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your letter regarding the EPA's clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once – among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective. While our state does not have any power plants of a significant size that would be affected by the proposed rules, I support the EPA's effort to cut carbon pollution from power plants, an approach Vermont has already championed through our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program.

Vermont is already a leader in regulating greenhouse gas emissions through the RGGI program and it is successful, in large part, because the states within the RGGI region have been able to work together to build a regional program. I welcome the EPA's decision to regulate carbon from power plants and it will only galvanize our efforts as a region. We recognize that Vermont makes up a small part of the emissions in the region, and we are committed to working with the other states to keep RGGI strong. As a small state with a strong environmental ethic, it is important that we take the opportunity to provide leadership to the group, and we will continue to do that.

Thank you for your comments. I agree we must support the EPA in its efforts. Climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I look forward to working together on this issue moving forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me again in the future if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

December 22, 2014

William McLaughlin


So. Burlington, VT

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to tax carbon. While some proposals put forward have cited improvements to our economy as a whole, I do not support an approach that doesn't include our regional partners. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once -- among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective.

Climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. While we may disagree, I believe a carbon tax would force us all to look at how our own actions affect our environment. However, I do not support such a tax as a unilateral action for Vermont to pursue on its own. I would support a regional approach if the plan could also be a boon to our economy. I am cognizant that many Vermonters get their gas from across the Connecticut River and a carbon tax would only exacerbate that loss of revenue. However, economically efficient regulation of carbon could be a step in the right direction to encourage dependence on cleaner, cheaper, greener, more local energy.

Thanks again for your comments. I will keep them in mind as we chart a clean energy future that improves our economy while it improves the health of our planet. I also appreciate your comments on taxes in general and I will keep them in mind as we press forward with our ambition to make Vermont a healthier, more affordable, sustainable place to raise a family. If my office can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/lg

March 4, 2015

Mr. Fletcher Dean

E. Calais, VT

Dear Fletcher,

Thank you for your letter about the risks posed by climate change and the importance of Vermont doing its part to address this problem. As you know, I share those concerns and believe climate change is the single greatest long term challenge facing our state and our world.

You suggest eliminating companies related to fossil fuel production from Vermont's pension fund investments. As you may know, the Vermont Pension Investment Committee, along with state Treasurer Beth Pearce, are primarily responsible for overseeing our pension system.

I do appoint members of that committee to help guide investment decisions. I trust and rely on the expertise of the panel, and Treasurer Pearce with whom I work closely, to examine how we can use the smart investment of state funds to move Vermont and the world toward a cleaner, greener economy, while still meeting our obligation to pay for the retirements of hard working municipal, state and education workers in the most responsible way for taxpayers.

Thank you for also for your comments related to a carbon tax. While some proposals put forward have cited improvements to our economy as a whole, I do not support an approach that doesn't include our regional partners. I believe that climate change is the most urgent environmental issue of our time. Solving the problem will require us to act on many fronts at once – among them are building more resilient communities and infrastructure, improving vehicle gas mileage, strengthening efforts in energy efficiency and weatherization, expanding our renewable energy portfolio, and working with our neighboring states and regions to ensure the actions that we take are effective.

Climate change imperils the way of life Vermonters hold dear. We understand the high price of climate change, from the devastation caused by more frequent and violent storms, to the quieter but significant shifts we see every day on our farms, in our forests, and in our rivers. I do believe a carbon tax would force us all to look at how our own actions affect our environment. However, I do not support such a tax as a unilateral action for Vermont to pursue on its own. I would support a regional approach if the plan could also be a boon to our economy. I am cognizant that many Vermonters get their gas from across the Connecticut River and a carbon tax would only exacerbate that loss of revenue. However, economically efficient regulation of carbon could be a

step in the right direction to encourage dependence on cleaner, cheaper, greener, more local energy.

Thanks again for your comments. I will keep them in mind as we chart a clean energy future that improves our economy while it improves the health of our planet. If my office can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/ar