

Email received 3/23/15 as Public Comments for the 3/24/15 Public Hearing on Renewable Energy Siting

To: The Senate and House Natural Resources and Energy Committees

Re: Siting Renewable Energy in Vermont

I am writing to plea with you to draft legislation which adopts strict siting standards for renewable energy projects. Such standards should give individuals and municipalities within an affected watershed the opportunity to be heard in any decision making proceedings.

I certainly support renewable energy, but I vehemently oppose projects which destroy the natural beauty of Vermont, particularly along our ridgelines and highway corridors.

The devastation of Lowell Mountain speaks for itself. Something similar should *never* happen again.

At one time we took great pride in our billboard law because it kept our highway corridors unspoiled and scenic. Now, however, we seem to have forgotten the reasons for enacting that legislation, and are allowing solar devices to despoil the landscape in the same way that billboards do. For example, drive toward Warren on Route 100 and witness the eyesore that Yestermorrow has constructed.

I am well aware that the usual suspects are crying climate change doom and gloom about the impact of any siting standards. I heartily disagree with them. It is quite possible to move along with renewable energy initiatives without destroying the state's scenic beauty. To do that we must adopt strict siting standards and give the public and municipalities the opportunity to participate in any review process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Yeiser, Worcester