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*****PUBLIC STATEMENT*****

Statement of Lt. Governor Molly Gray on the Senate's Action on Environmental Justice Legislation

Montpelier, Vt. — This afternoon, Lt. Governor Molly Gray released the following statement in response to the Senate's action of S.148, An act relating to environmental justice in Vermont:

“Today, the Vermont Senate took important action on S.148, an environmental justice bill that would work to ensure the meaningful participation of marginalized groups in Vermont, including Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color and individuals with low income, in climate action.

We know from Hurricane Irene and other extreme weather events, that there are individuals and communities in Vermont who are disproportionately impacted by climate change and take on environmental burdens - these are our ‘first and worst communities.’ If we are going to reach our climate goals and protect the environmental health and well-being of all communities, every Vermonter must be able to fully participate.

This bill is an important first step in establishing a whole-of-government approach to addressing inequities and promoting environmental justice.”

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