



April 24, 2019

Honorable Timothy Briglin, Chair
House Energy and Technology Committee
State House
115 State St.
Montpelier VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairperson Briglin:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Public Utility Commission (PUC) Draft Rule 5.100 this morning. I am writing on behalf of the 246 VLCT member cities and towns to follow up on that testimony.

The draft rule concerns us because it would further limit opportunities that local governments have to weigh in on proposals for renewable energy projects. We believe that the PUC needs to provide ample opportunity for local boards and commissions to participate in the Certificate of Public Good (CPG) process and to endorse, oppose or propose conditions on energy projects located in or adjacent to their municipalities.

We believe that the rule needs to provide for local governments and regional commissions to write letters that support the location of a project on a specific site in a municipality that may not be among those identified in the rule or in an enhanced energy plan. We suggest language to read at Section (7) on page 10 of the draft rule:

“A specific location designated in a duly adopted municipal plan under 24 VSA chapter 117 for the siting of a renewable energy plant or specific type or size of renewable energy plant, provided that the plant meets the siting criteria recommended in the plan for the location. A municipal planning commission, selectboard and regional commission may provide a letter of support for a net metering project in a specific preferred location. Expressing such general support does not preclude further comment on details of a project or participation in the CPG process.”

Municipalities are eager to help meet Vermont’s climate commitments for current and future generations through local renewable energy, and efforts to improve our communities’ resilience and energy independence.

Sincerely,

Sponsor of:

VLCT Employment
Resource and Benefits
Trust, Inc.

VLCT Municipal
Assistance Center

VLCT Property and
Casualty Intermunicipal
Fund, Inc.

Karen B. Horn, Director,
Public Policy & Advocacy