

28 April 2019

To: VT House Ways & Means Committee

Re: Clean Water Funding

I urge the VT House Ways & Means Committee to approve promptly a measure to ensure long-term funding for clean water funding.

I favor strongly a measure that provides broad based funding, like a per-parcel fee. I join Treasurer Beth Pearce in favoring this source for the funding.

Further, I urge that the fee increase in proportion to the lot size. Not by brackets of lot size — brackets invite gaming the system. Rather, a fee that increases numerically with lot size.

Clean water — surface waters and ground waters — are of utmost importance to humans and to all plant and animal species. As well as to all forms of commerce and recreation. Just imagine the havoc to Vermont if more of the state's waters become impaired!

Secure long-term funding has been a Vermont issue for too long. The problem will not go away. Rather it will only get more critical. And there is no silver bullet here.

I urge this Committee to demonstrate leadership by approving, without delay, a sound basis for long-term funding.

Please, no more study committees or further studies and reports — we have had more than enough of them on this issue.

Also, please take action without waiting for the Governor's input. We have had more than enough of that, also!

Lead the way!

Thank you.

Hugo Liepmann
Middlesex VT
802.565.0059