

From: Springer, Darren [Darren.Springer@vermont.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Coriell, Scott; Copans, Jon
Subject: Draft release - please edit Jon, then send back to me and Scott

Governor Shumlin Signs Renewable Energy Siting Bill into Law

June 13, 2016

Middlebury – Governor Peter Shumlin has signed S. 260, a bill designed to enhance community input into renewable energy siting. The legislation was developed over a number of months, starting with the work of the Solar Siting Task Force. It provides regional planning commissions and towns with “substantial deference” before the Public Service Board when their energy plans have been certified to be consistent with state energy and climate laws. Funding and training to support planning efforts will be available through the Public Service Department, and the new law requires planning across sectors to include electricity generation, thermal efficiency, and transportation.

“This new law provides a roadmap for how we continue to build out renewables in Vermont while improving opportunities for our communities to have a say in the process,” said Gov. Shumlin. “This comprehensive legislation brings to conclusion a sometimes challenging but necessary discussion about to best plan for the locally-produced clean energy we need. I want to say thank you to Speaker Shap Smith and President Pro Tem John Campbell, all the legislators who worked on this bill, and in particular Senator Chris Bray who authored the legislation and Representative Tony Klein who shepherded it through the House.”

The Legislature passed S. 260 on June 9, 2016, after a previous version of energy siting legislation, S. 230, was vetoed by the Governor over concerns including unintended effects of new wind sound standards.

“I am so pleased that the Legislature was able to address the concerns I raised, and get the language in this bill right. Now we can have new wind energy sound standards that are rational and will not take an important renewable energy technology off the table at a time when we are leading the nation in per capita clean energy jobs in Vermont.”

BRAY QUOTE

KLEIN QUOTE

LOUGEE or PUTNAM QUOTE

In addition to enhancing local and regional planning for renewables, and establishing a process for new wind energy sound standards, S. 260 has a number of other provisions including a new pilot program within the Standard Offer to site solar in parking lots, (COPANS add some other stuff here, ag stuff, whatever....)

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Please note: My email address has changed to Darren.Springer@vermont.gov.