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Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 5:32 PM
To: MacLean, Alex
CC: Snyder, Michael; Berry, Patrick; Recchia, Chris
Subject: current use language

Hi Alex - we reworked the language a bit. Please call if you have any questions.

Vermont's farms and forests, mountains and lakes not only provide beautiful scenery that people come from all around the world to see, but it is also the natural infrastructure and economic base of our working landscape, providing jobs and economic development through high-quality, value-added food and forest products. Our great outdoors also provides us with clean water, fresh air, critical habitat for wildlife, and a variety of recreational opportunities - from hunting and fishing to bird watching, canoeing, skiing and snowshoeing. What is remarkable about Vermont and Vermonters is that these benefits to the state are the result of many landowners making **individual** decisions about how best to use their property. In Vermont we have a proud tradition of landowners welcoming others to enter and responsibly enjoy their land, but since 1990 we have witnessed a two-fold increase in the amount of posted land. Among other problems, this loss of access is affecting our tradition of hunting and fishing and is making it harder to manage wildlife. For this reason, I will push for changes in the current use program to create an incentive for farm and forest landowners in current use to keep their land open for recreational access including hunting and fishing.

Deb Markowitz, Secretary

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