

**From:** Shems, Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 1:15 PM  
**To:** MacLean, Alex  
**CC:** Recchia, Chris  
**Subject:** Permit Reform -- DRAFT Joint House Resolution  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Joint House Resolution.docx

**Importance:** High

Hi Alex,

Chris Recchia should be calling (or has called) you to explain the attachment's context. David Deen believes that we need a "portfolio" from the Legislature to embark on gathering permit reform thoughts from stakeholders and the public. I also believe that it would be good to have some legislative buy-in that gives us the flexibility to develop our own proposal.

Please review the attached. I have a meeting on with Shap, his leadership team, David Deen and Tony Klein tomorrow at 10:30. It would be great to provide the attached to Tony Klein, David Deen et al. this afternoon.

I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Please call me if you have questions or if Chris was unable to connect with you.

Many thanks.

--Ron

Ronald A. Shems  
Chair  
Natural Resources Board  
802.828.5440

House Joint Resolution  
JRH xxx

Joint resolution supporting the efforts of the Administration, through the Chair of the Natural Resources Board, in coordination with the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources and other agencies, to gather public input and make recommendations for reform of Vermont's environmental and land use permitting systems.

Offered by: Committee on Natural Resources & Energy

Whereas, since 1970, Vermont's system of environmental and land use regulation, including municipal regulation, has grown significantly, and

Whereas, this system should be reviewed to determine if it can better serve the needs of Vermonters, and

Whereas, the Administration has directed the Chair of the Natural Resources Board to review Vermont's environmental and land use permitting systems and to provide recommendations for reform of those systems, and

Whereas, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources has agreed to coordinate with the Chair in this effort, and

now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly supports the Administration's efforts to examine and provide recommendations for reform of Vermont's environmental and land use permitting process, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly requests that the Chair of the Natural Resources Board invite broad public input through public meetings at various locations throughout the state, the use of the internet, and other outreach, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly requests that the Chair of the Natural Resources Board meet on a regular basis with the Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, House Committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources, and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy during this process, to keep them informed and to get their input, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly requests that the Chair develop recommendations intended to maintain standards assuring the environmental quality so important to Vermonters while making Vermont's land use and environmental permit process:

- more efficient

- more effective
- more user-friendly
- more open
- better coordinated
- quicker and less costly

And be it further

Resolved: That the Chair be requested to submit these recommendations to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources by [date - in time for 2012 session].