

Public Comment on H.51, H.175, H.214  
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I am here today because I'm scared. I have a vision in my head of a moment 30 years from now. My daughters, now 14 and 19 years old, have grown up and had children of their own. I have more gray hair than I have now. My grandchildren ask me about what Vermont was like when I was young. And after I tell them about sneaking in a ski run before work in November, or going to their mom's soccer game in April snow flurries, they ask me why it hardly ever snows any more. And then I break into a cold sweat, because then they ask, "Why did everyone keep burning fossil fuels when they knew it was heating up the planet?"

The trouble is, inaction on climate is rewarded by our legislative process. Because choosing the climate means taking the long view- longer than your term, and longer than your life. Longer than my life. I want to be able to look my grandchildren in the eye and tell them a different story. I want to tell them that thirty years ago we got scared, and then we made a change. It was a change that took courage and leadership, and it started right here in Vermont.

You may be thinking that you're already making changes, perhaps around weatherization, or other important aspects of addressing the climate crisis. But why I support H.51, H.175, and H.214, is that every dollar we invest in pipeline infrastructure delays our transition to renewable energy.

Some of you will have a similar conversation with your grandchildren in 30 years. What do you want to tell them when you knew you had the chance to act?