

Public Comment on H.51, H.175, H.214
April 24, 2019

Hello,

I'm unable to be at the public hearing tonight in person, so I'm submitting this written testimony to voice my **STRONG SUPPORT** of bills H.51, H.175, and H.214 banning fossil fuel infrastructure and prohibiting utilities from using eminent domain for fossil fuel infrastructure. I'm also writing to urge the Legislature to take these bills up first thing next session.

As a mother of two young children, our current climate emergency weighs heavily on my mind. And that's what this is: an emergency. As Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teen activist, has said, "our house is on fire." And in light of the recent IPCC and other recent reports, scientific evidence is all too clear -- time is running out for us to prevent "runaway" catastrophic climate change.

Although Vermont is a small state, it has often been a leader on issues of national significance, and it can do so once again. At a bare minimum in order to curtail carbon emissions, we must keep all fossil fuels in the ground, which means banning all new fossil fuel infrastructure here in Vermont. And though this is the bare minimum of what we need to do, it is a meaningful and impactful legislative action. The time is now for our legislative leaders to show political will and act in the best interests of all life on Earth. Our future, and our children's future, depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail Mnookin
Brattleboro, VT