

From: Karen Horn [khorn@vlct.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 3:01 PM
To: Peter.Shumlin@vermont.gov; Allen, Susan; Springer, Darren; Copans, Jon
CC: Maura Carroll
Subject: Letter to Governor Shumlin urging signature of S. 230
Attachments: 2016-05-24 S230 letter to gov shumlin.pdf

Please find attached a letter from VLCT President Jared Cadwell urging the Governor to sign S. 230. A paper copy has been mailed as well.

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May 24, 2016

Hon. Peter Shumlin, Governor
State of Vermont
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Shumlin:

We strongly urge you to sign S.230, the renewable energy siting legislation that would finally give municipalities meaningful standing before the Public Service Board (PSB) in Certificate of Public Good (CPG) proceedings. Such is not the case today.

For years, cities and towns in Vermont have asked for a meaningful voice before the PSB. As of May 9, when the 2016 legislative session concluded, 130 municipalities had signed a resolution calling for a stronger say in CPG proceedings for siting renewable energy facilities. Many local officials sat in House and Senate committee rooms throughout the legislative session to follow the progress of S.230.

Throughout this biennium, local officials and legislators worked hard to finalize a bill that met the requirements of energy utilities, environmental advocates, local officials, residents near renewable energy projects, and your office. We believe that the final version of S.230 was a measure of compromise that met the requirements of each of those constituencies. We further believe that the bill gives solid direction both to municipalities and regional commissions when they plan for their energy futures and to the PSB when it addresses concerns raised by Vermont citizens and municipalities in a CPG proceeding.

For the first time, S.230 requires the Public Service Department to establish standards and recommendations for municipal and regional energy plans. Once a municipal or regional plan is given a “determination of energy compliance,” the PSB will need to give substantial deference to those plans and land conservation measures. This legislation points a path forward for local governments, the department and the board. We urge you to sign the legislation and give the bill a chance to work.

Sincerely,

Jared Cadwell, President
Vermont League of Cities and Towns

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Casualty Intermunicipal