

From: Copans, Jon [Jon.Copans@vermont.gov]
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:04 PM
To: Coriell, Scott; Springer, Darren
Subject: RE: Draft release - please edit Jon, then send back to me and Scott
Attachments: Bill Signing PR - 2016-06-11.docx

See attached revised version.

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From: Coriell, Scott
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Springer, Darren <Darren.Springer@vermont.gov>
Cc: Copans, Jon <Jon.Copans@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft release - please edit Jon, then send back to me and Scott

Have you reached out for quotes? If not, I'll do it.

On Jun 10, 2016, at 1:56 PM, Springer, Darren <Darren.Springer@vermont.gov> wrote:

Governor Shumlin Signs Renewable Energy Siting Bill into Law

June 13, 2016

Middlebury – Governor Peter Shumlin has signed S. 260, a bill designed to enhance community input into renewable energy siting. The legislation was developed over a number of months, starting with the work of the Solar Siting Task Force. It provides regional planning commissions and towns with “substantial deference” before the Public Service Board when their energy plans have been certified to be consistent with state energy and climate laws. Funding and training to support planning efforts will be available through the Public Service Department, and the new law requires planning across sectors to include electricity generation, thermal efficiency, and transportation.

“This new law provides a roadmap for how we continue to build out renewables in Vermont while improving opportunities for our communities to have a say in the process,” said Gov. Shumlin. “This comprehensive legislation brings to conclusion a sometimes challenging but necessary discussion about to best plan for the locally-produced clean energy we need. I want to say thank you to Speaker Shap Smith and President Pro Tem John Campbell, all the legislators who worked on this bill, and in particular Senator Chris Bray who authored the legislation and Representative Tony Klein who shepherded it through the House.”

The Legislature passed S. 260 on June 9, 2016, after a previous version of energy siting legislation, S. 230, was vetoed by the Governor over concerns including unintended effects of new wind sound standards.

"I am so pleased that the Legislature was able to address the concerns I raised, and get the language in this bill right. Now we can have new wind energy sound standards that are rational and will not take an important renewable energy technology off the table at a time when we are leading the nation in per capita clean energy jobs in Vermont."

BRAY QUOTE

KLEIN QUOTE

LOUGEE or PUTNAM QUOTE

In addition to enhancing local and regional planning for renewables, and establishing a process for new wind energy sound standards, S. 260 has a number of other provisions including a new pilot program within the Standard Offer to site solar in parking lots, (COPANS add some other stuff here, ag stuff, whatever....)

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Please note: My email address has changed to Darren.Springer@vermont.gov.

Governor Shumlin Signs Renewable Energy Siting Bill into Law

June 13, 2016

Middlebury – Governor Peter Shumlin has signed S. 260, a bill designed to improve regional and town energy planning and to enhance community input into the siting of energy projects. The legislation was developed over a number of months, and was based in large part on the recommendations of the Solar Siting Task Force. It provides regional planning commissions and towns with “substantial deference” before the Public Service Board when their energy plans have been ~~certified~~ **determined** to be consistent with state energy and climate ~~laws~~ **goals**. Funding and training to support planning efforts will be available through the ~~Public Service Department~~, **Regional Planning Commissions working in concert with the Department of Public Service and the Vermont League of Cities and towns**. The new law requires planning across sectors to include electricity generation, **electric and** thermal efficiency, and transportation.

“This new law provides a roadmap for how we continue to transform our energy system in Vermont while improving opportunities for our communities to have a say in the process,” said Gov. Shumlin. “This comprehensive legislation brings to conclusion a sometimes challenging but necessary discussion about **how** to best plan for the locally-produced clean energy we need. I want to say thank you to Speaker Shap Smith and President Pro Tem John Campbell, all the legislators who worked on this bill, and in particular Senator Chris Bray who authored the legislation and Representative Tony Klein who shepherded it through the House.”

The Legislature passed S. 260 on June 9, 2016, after a previous version of energy siting legislation, S. 230, was vetoed by the Governor over concerns including unintended effects of new wind sound standards **language**.

“I am so pleased that the Legislature was able to address the concerns I raised, and get the language in this bill right. Now we can ~~have~~ **foster strong community participation in planning for Vermont’s energy future, while also providing** new wind energy sound standards that are rational and will not take an important renewable energy technology off the table at a time when we are leading the nation in per capita clean energy jobs in Vermont. **In this way, S. 260 responds to the feedback I and my colleagues in the Legislature have been hearing in response to our state’s realization of its ambitious clean energy goals.**”

BRAY QUOTE

KLEIN QUOTE

LOUGEE or PUTNAM QUOTE

In addition to enhancing local and regional planning for renewables, **providing municipalities and regions with more say in the permitting process**, and establishing a two-step process for **developing** new wind energy sound standards, S. 260 has a number of other provisions including:

- Increasing the participation of the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets in energy permitting decisions, giving more attention to agricultural soils in the permitting process, and ensuring that energy development on agricultural soils won’t inadvertently make it easier for other types of future development to occur on those soils

- A one-year pilot within the Standard Offer program to site renewable energy projects in preferred locations such as parking lots, rooftops, brownfields, closed landfills, gravel pits, and town designated areas
- Development of rules to address ongoing maintenance of plantings for screening as well as the decommissioning of energy facilities at the end of their useful life
- Enhanced notice provisions to neighboring towns and regions when applications for new energy generation facilities are initiated
- A requirement that any new wind generation facility of four or more turbines minimize visual impact at nighttime by installing radar-controlled lights
- A simplified permitting process for group net metered systems that are majority-owned by customers, as well as for rooftop systems
- The creation of a working group to assess ways to increase the ease of citizen participation in energy permitting proceedings