

OPEN LETTER TO: Speaker of the House, Senate Pro Tem and Governor  
RE: Action on Global Warming Legislation

April 4, 2007

Dear Speaker Symington, President Pro Tem Shumlin and Governor Douglas,

We are writing to ask that you redouble your efforts to enact legislation this session that will reduce Vermont's global warming pollution and strengthen the Vermont economy. Scientists have indicated that in order to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of global warming the level of green house gases released into our atmosphere *must* be stabilized within the next decade and then dramatically reduced.

All of you are fully aware of the devastating implications of ignoring climate change and the importance of increasing Vermont's energy independence, growing our green economy and preserving a healthy, stable environment. We are concerned that none of these goals will be advanced in 2007 without aggressive action over the next month.

The scope of the actions we take in Vermont must match the severity of the problem we are facing.

This year there are two related pieces of legislation that started with tremendous promise and have been significantly weakened:

- Senate bill 94 has the potential to help Vermont dramatically reduce the amount of oil and other fossil fuels used to heat our homes and businesses. The production of global warming pollution from our residential, commercial and industrial sectors accounts for nearly one half of the state's global warming pollution. Vermonters want to reduce their winter heating bills, they want to reduce the amount of oil we import from the Middle East and they want to reduce global warming pollution. S. 94 would allow Vermont's nationally acclaimed efficiency utility help them. However, without funding this bill will have little to no effect on Vermont's fossil fuel consumption or global warming pollution.
- House bill 520 has the potential to spur the development of renewable energy resources here in Vermont. This would contribute significantly to the stability and affordability of our future electric rates, increase our tax base and keep significant dollars from flowing out of the Vermont economy. However, recent changes to the bill create additional obstacles for wind and solar power instead of creating additional opportunities for these clean and renewable sources of energy.

If strengthened and enacted these two bills would lay a solid foundation upon which to build. We are more than willing to offer our help in moving stronger versions of these bills forward.

Bold leadership on this issue is not optional. The next generation of Vermonters is already asking us to reverse global warming. They will soon be asking why we didn't act fast enough.

Thank you for your efforts to address Vermont's and the world's future.

Sincerely,

Linda G. Rooker, Executive Director, BROCC-  
Community Action in Southwest Vermont

Tom Buckley,  
Burlington Electric Department

Hal Cohen, Executive Director,  
Central Vermont Community Action Council

Elizabeth Chant, Weatherization Director,  
Champlain Valley Office of Economic  
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Deb Katz, Executive Director, Citizens  
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Bill McKibben, Author and Professor,  
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Dean Boucher, Executive Director, Northeast  
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Paul Denton, Exec. Director, Northeast  
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Ed Anthes, Coordinator  
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Carl Etnier, President,  
Peak Oil Awareness

Don Mayer, Chair of Board of Directors,  
Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility

Tom Hengelsberg, AIA, LEED-AP  
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Eric Stevens, Owner,  
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