

STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

VERMONT COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN

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7 p.m.

Noble Hall
Montpelier, Vermont

Public Hearing held before the Vermont
Department of Public Service, at the Vermont College of
Fine Arts, 39 College Street, Montpelier, Vermont, on
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P R E S E N T

DPS Staff: Asa Hopkins, Director of Planning and
Energy Resources

Jon Copans, Deputy Commissioner

CAPITOL COURT REPORTERS, INC.
P.O. BOX 329
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05402-0329
(802/800) 863-6067
E-mail: info@capitolcourtreporters.com

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1 MS. KYLE: Dotty Kyle K-Y-L-E. My next
2 door neighbor is poor as a church mouse and she's
3 also disabled. She lives in a 150-year-old drafty
4 farmhouse. She has been on the waiting list for low
5 income weatherization for nearly three years. There
6 isn't any money for the program that Capstone so
7 generously offers to low income people. They have
8 been able to weatherize some homes, but that waiting
9 list grows and grows, and this is a plea for a carbon
10 pollution tax where some place between 10 and 20
11 percent of the income from that tax could be used to
12 fund programs that help low income people stay in
13 their homes comfortably, and that's my statement.
14 Plea for carbon pollution tax.

15 DR. HOPKINS: Eric Brattstrom.

16 MR. BRATTSTROM: Eric Brattstrom
17 B-R-A-T-T-S-T-R-O-M. I'm also from Warren and
18 recently in the Town of Warren there is a crib dam
19 that's been there for 150 years. We are trying to
20 reconfigure that crib dam into hydro producing, and
21 we have run into nothing but trouble with the state
22 to try to renew that dam, keep it in the shape it is
23 or better, remove the silt from behind the dam, and
24 we've run into nothing but roadblocks from the state
25 using every excuse possible, and it gets very, very

1 frustrating. I can imagine what -- the frustration
2 you must see trying to work with different agencies
3 in the state, and it seems to me that the state
4 should try to put clean energy, especially something
5 like hydro where -- and especially where a town is
6 trying to do its best to do its share, and we find
7 that we may have to stop trying it's getting so
8 frustrating, and I wonder if you can't get the
9 different agencies to work together to make clean
10 energy without greenhouse gases work and actually
11 meet the goals that we're trying to get to with the
12 Comprehensive Energy Plan. Thank you.

13 DR. HOPKINS: Some folks put question
14 marks. I'm just going to call your name and you can
15 yell out if you want to speak. Jim Ashley now and
16 then Norm Etroid with a question mark. Not Norm. So
17 next Bill Nolan also a question mark. All right. So
18 then Jim Ashley and then Eric Esselstyn probably yes.
19 So Jim and then Eric.

20 MR. ASHLEY: I'm not as tall as he is,
21 but he certainly leads us all and has done a great
22 job with the Comprehensive Energy Plan. I
23 participated also in the 2011 and at that time, as I
24 will now, bring up geothermal heat pumps. I think
25 they are not being adequately addressed. Like on

1 page 98, 35,000 cold climate heat pumps by 2025.

2 Well there's also geothermal that should be
3 mentioned. The -- what was it -- S202 failed to
4 mention geothermal. We had to get that put into the
5 legislation. It mentioned such as coal plant and
6 heat pumps and there is no alternative.

7 The geothermal heat pumps I think can
8 play a very major role in accomplishing our goals in
9 many ways. They are -- and I learned this from Diane
10 Hopans (phonetic) they are not a displacement
11 product. They are a replacement. In other words,
12 they replace. You replace your furnace. You don't
13 need to keep using an old furnace or other things
14 that are inefficient, and you can replace it entirely
15 rather than like an Energy Star, like an E-house in
16 Rutland that was mentioned in an article in the
17 Atlantic that in the last part of that the homeowner
18 mentioned the fact that they were great about their
19 energy reduction, but now they had to replace the
20 furnace that was their backup.

21 Also I think a very important thing is
22 for us to start getting into thermal RECs which can
23 be credited to geothermal, and in New Hampshire a
24 four ton unit will produce 18 to 20 million
25 megawatthours of thermal per year equating to 18 to

1 20 RECs, and 25 dollars per REC is 4 ton, annual of
2 450 to 500 dollars that could go prepaid, like in
3 Massachusetts, a long ways toward helping to finance
4 which is a big question with geo.

5 DR. HOPKINS: Eric Esselstyn and then
6 Anne Jameson.

7 MR. ESSELSTYN: Eric Esselstyn
8 E-S-S-E-L-S-T-Y-N from Montpelier. I just want to
9 mention something about the crackle and the
10 commitment and the emotional energy that's going to
11 play a huge role whether this thing goes forward or
12 has a hard time going forward, and I would like to
13 speak up for sort of rekindling the town energy
14 committees.

15 Four years ago there were all kinds of
16 stuff in East Montpelier about insulating the old
17 four corner schoolhouse, insulating the town office,
18 making sure the trucks and graders and stuff were
19 turned off in waiting periods. Those tiny little
20 things four years ago there was a lot of excitement
21 about that. I just think there's an enormous asset
22 in rekindling the esprit of those town energy
23 committees. Also in identifying the people --
24 helping state agencies identify the people who need
25 it the most -- who may need the most help. They

1 can't all just come down to the state.

2 I would suggest the possibility of
3 competition between towns done on a percentage basis
4 about the number of buildings that have been
5 retrofitted or the number of electric cars and the
6 amount of solar energy. Obviously you have to be
7 sensitive to the huge variation and income levels of
8 various communities, but set up a little competition
9 to add a little, what can I say, crunch, crackle, and
10 more than just stuff coming from the state. I'll
11 leave it at that. As an old coach I think you will
12 play a huge role.

13 DR. HOPKINS: Anne Jameson.

14 MS. JAMESON: I too am not as tall as
15 Asa. I'm Anne Jameson J-A-M-E-S-O-N. I live in
16 Marshfield. I thank you for the opportunity to
17 comment this evening. I've noticed that within the
18 proposal for the CPE this year it does not contain a
19 carbon pollution tax and I respectfully request that
20 that be considered.

21 I firmly believe that our climate is
22 changing to a degree which is endangering the future
23 of ourselves and our children's children. We can't
24 ignore the growing reality of the destructive weather
25 patterns such has brought us Irene and Sandy, or the

1 warming temperatures will ultimately decrease our
2 apple harvests, hurt or possibly destroy our maple
3 fields, and shorten our winter sporting season.
4 Ignoring these warnings will leave our children with
5 the Vermont that we probably wouldn't want them to
6 live in. I don't want to see this happen.

7 Immediate and effective action is needed
8 to curtail the pollution which is adversely
9 contributing to these climate changes, especially the
10 use of fossil fuel. Putting a price on the use of
11 that in the form of a carbon pollution tax is a levy
12 on distributors and wholesalers based on the amount
13 of potential carbon pollution they create is a good
14 way to both reduce emissions and help meet our state
15 goals for greenhouse reduction.

16 Vermonters' dependence on fossil fuels
17 also drains dollars out of Vermont's communities.
18 Alternative energy sources will help keep more of
19 those energy dollars here working with Vermonters and
20 Vermont businesses. I hope my ideas and comments
21 will help you consider a carbon tax. Thank you.

22 DR. HOPKINS: Dee Gish and Deb
23 Stoleroff.

24 MS. GISH: My name is Dee Gish. I live
25 -- G-I-S-H. I live in Sharon. I'm also working for

1 Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission in
2 Woodstock. We are one of the three regional planning
3 commissions that are working with the Department on
4 the regional energy plans. I also chair the Sharon
5 Energy Committee, and I serve on the Board of Vermont
6 Interfaith Power and Light, and also on the Board of
7 Bayo (phonetic) Building, a local company out of
8 South Royalton, but tonight I'm here as a mom, hence,
9 my attire because I came directly from my son's
10 soccer game. So I'm not wearing any of those hats.
11 I'm coming as a mom and I share a lot of other
12 comments that you just heard tonight.

13 So with regards to the Comprehensive
14 Energy Plan I want to thank the Department and all of
15 the other agencies that put so much thought into this
16 plan because I think it is truly comprehensive, but I
17 also want to share with some of the other commenters
18 that we do need a price on carbon and that is not in
19 the current plan, and we also need to avoid any more
20 investments in fossil fuel infrastructure because
21 once that infrastructure is in place we've committed
22 to those dirty sources of energy, and finally there's
23 no mention of hydro, again, fuel cell vehicles in the
24 plan, and I know Toyota just came out with a plan
25 that said that they are not going to be producing

1 gasoline vehicles as of 2050, and that they are
2 putting more of their emphasis on hydrogen fuel
3 cells. So I would like to see that mentioned in the
4 plan, and again thank you all for coming.

5 DR. HOPKINS: Deborah Stoleroff and
6 Elizabeth Parker.

7 MS. STOLEROFF: My name is Deborah
8 Stoleroff and I'm from Plainfield, Vermont. I
9 recently had a conversation with a middle school
10 student about her recollection of Vermont climate.
11 She notices that the summers have been warmer, but
12 the winter, spring, and fall were already changing by
13 the time she became aware of climate, and our longer
14 springs, summers, and autumns are her norm so she
15 doesn't necessarily relate to climate change.

16 It reminded me of the burden that -- and
17 responsibility that protecting our planet has on our
18 shoulders of the older generation. We as an older
19 generation have carried the knowledge and the -- and
20 keep that knowledge of the diversity and the beauty
21 that our earth has had in the past. However, most of
22 the populous is not and will not voluntarily take
23 responsibility for the planet. Therefore, it is
24 incumbent upon the lawmakers and policymakers to
25 develop policies and incentives that will protect all

1 aspects of the environment.

2 Vermont's energy plan, though a good
3 start, is not bold enough. Our energy plan needs to
4 set the most rigorous goals. I would call for one
5 hundred percent renewable energy use in Vermont by
6 2030, a carbon pollution tax on the larger polluters,
7 shutting down Vermont Gas's pipeline that will
8 transport fracked gas through our state, and
9 allocating more funds for mass transportation. If we
10 want to leave a habitable planet for our children and
11 grandchildren, we need to stop at this point toeing
12 around the harder solutions we know will keep our
13 environment stable.

14 So I urge you to write the strongest and
15 boldest of energy plans. One that will protect the
16 planet for our future generations. Thanks.

17 DR. HOPKINS: Elizabeth Parker and then
18 Thomas Weiss.

19 MS. PARKER: Hi. I'm Elizabeth Parker
20 P-A-R-K-E-R. First I would like to thank everyone
21 who is involved in bringing this plan to this point.
22 It's an amazing job and just at the beginning of a
23 very long road. I have been using public
24 transportation for four years due to a medical
25 condition, and as to rural state planning public

1 transportation is a challenge, but it's not
2 impossible. Look at Europe. They have got -- the
3 cost of gasoline is much higher there than what we
4 are paying here in Vermont and yet they have
5 excellent public transportation. Public
6 transportation costs money which we at this point do
7 not have to put into it, and it is also a huge
8 cultural shift.

9 I believe that a carbon pollution tax
10 will be good for Vermonters providing much needed
11 money for a change in how we do transportation.
12 Vermonters need to change behavior dramatically in a
13 very short period of time and it is going to take
14 incentives to help change behavior and also marking a
15 culture of energy efficiency.

16 I would like to see things such as
17 access, bus access, back from Burlington for after
18 late evening meetings, and on the weekends access to
19 the Northeast Kingdom, Hardwick and beyond. These
20 are only a few of the transportation changes that can
21 be funded by revenues from a carbon pollution tax. A
22 carbon pollution tax is an important step in
23 achieving Vermont's transportation goals. Thank you.

24 DR. HOPKINS: Thomas Weiss and then Rick
25 Wackernagel.

1 MR. WEISS: Hello. I'm Thomas Weiss W-E
2 I-S-S from Montpelier. I like numbers and I don't
3 see the numbers I'm looking for in the report. What
4 does this all achieve? We've got greenhouse gas
5 reduction goals. We know that we started at a
6 certain amount. In transportation if we're going to
7 cut greenhouse gas emissions by a certain percentage
8 by a certain year, how much does each of the steps
9 get us there. I would like to see that, some kind of
10 numbers in the plan that shows that we're actually
11 going to get where we're supposed to be going with
12 what's recommended in the plan.

13 Secondly, carbon tax, where is it. I
14 think those words are mentioned three times in the
15 entire plan. I remember being in this room four
16 months ago where it seemed that carbon tax was listed
17 as a high priority to be included in the plan for
18 those people who were here.

19 Transportation. I was surprised when I
20 saw the slide that said that Agency of Transportation
21 was one of the people who participated in the
22 development of the plan because when I read the
23 transportation section I didn't see that at all. I
24 didn't see that they provided any guidance, that they
25 bought into any of the recommendations, or how the

1 recommendations in this plan relate to the various
2 transportation plans that there are.

3 That's a summary of the bulk of my
4 comments. Also the report doesn't point out that
5 we've made no progress on the greenhouse gas emission
6 reductions based on 1990 and 2012 which I think is
7 the latest year available. I think it was just a
8 little bit above what we were emitting in 1990. So
9 we have had all these plans but no action, or I
10 should say no results.

11 DR. HOPKINS: Eric Wackernagel and Pete
12 Ketcham.

13 MR. WACKERNAGEL: I'm Rick Wackernagel
14 W-A-C-K-E-R-N-A-G-E-L from Burlington, and I'm glad
15 to see that the plan includes a section on, and
16 support for, policies that will compliment the market
17 based instruments such as a carbon pollution tax that
18 we have heard about so far quite a bit.

19 I think it's important to look at
20 investing in technology development, providing
21 information, technical assistance, financing. Those
22 things will be most effective if those efforts are
23 coordinated. So I would like to see the plan call
24 for establishment of a council to set priorities and
25 coordinate efforts in those areas. I would include

1 in the council organizations that are active in
2 technology development and dissemination from the
3 public, private, and non-profit sectors. Thank you.

4 DR. HOPKINS: Pete Ketcham and then
5 Jonathan Besett. So Jonathan and then Robb Kidd.

6 MR. BESETT: Jonathan Besett
7 B-E-S-E-T-T. I'm from Hardwick, Vermont originally.
8 I studied Act 56 while I was at UVM, Charlie Ross
9 Environmental Public Service Practicum, and focusing
10 on the transportation and heating sectors the Lincoln
11 Renewable Gas Project mentioned in the report uses
12 2400 cows from 3 different farms to produce 130
13 square feet of compressed biomethane per minute. 129
14 is the gallon of gas equivalent for biomethane, and
15 that will be used by Middlebury College for heating.

16 I would like to emphasize the potential
17 for the use of biomethane production for
18 transportation and heating where there are fewer
19 renewable options than exist in the electric sector
20 which has like solar and wind. Biomethane production
21 would bring the added benefit of significantly
22 reduced runoff from farms feeding into Lake
23 Champlain, as well as increase revenues to farmers.

24 My current understanding of tier three
25 leads me to believe that electric utilities could

1 invest in biomethane to satisfy their requirement if
2 the fuel was used for heating, and transportation
3 does make it available -- significantly more capital
4 available for these projects. Thank you.

5 DR. HOPKINS: Robb Kidd and then Bob
6 Achinson.

7 MR. KIDD: I am Robb R-O-B-B K-I-D-D of
8 Montpelier. I am the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra
9 Club Conservation Program Manager. On behalf of our
10 10,000 members and supporters we appreciate the
11 opportunity to offer testimony on the 2015
12 Comprehensive Energy Plan. The Vermont Chapter will
13 be submitting more elaborate written comments.
14 However, in the meantime we are pleased that the
15 state continues to recognize the urgent need for a
16 radically different energy future powered by clean
17 low carbon renewable energy sources.

18 The state's 2015 draft Comprehensive
19 Energy Plan provides a clear outline of the path to
20 90 percent renewable energy and lays the groundwork
21 for Vermont to lead in the clean energy revolution
22 that will ultimately be environmentally and
23 economically beneficial for the state. However, as
24 with any plan of complexity of the Comprehensive
25 Energy Plan there are opportunities for improvement.

1 Specifically we believe that the plan could be
2 strengthened by, one, clearly articulating an
3 incentive based system as a carbon pollution tax to
4 drive the behavior changes needed to achieve these
5 targets; two, explicitly tying biofuel parties to
6 scientifically determined lifestyle emission
7 estimates; and, number three, requiring utilities to
8 gauge in public outreach and education about
9 renewable energy credit trading.

10 The Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club
11 is very optimistic that Vermont can and will lead in
12 the transition to a low carbon future. We look
13 forward to seeing the final Comprehensive Energy
14 Plan. Thank you.

15 DR. HOPKINS: Bob Achinson.

16 MR. ACHINSON: Good evening. I'm Bob
17 Achinson. I'm the Plainfield energy coordinator and
18 I have a few thoughts that may seem rambling, but
19 they are hitting at the same point.

20 Number one, whose got the remote to the
21 projector? Turn it off. It is a hundred watt bulb
22 in there. All right. The state has to be the
23 leader. It's really nice to put this all together
24 and you put it in a pretty document and send it out
25 here and everybody has earned a good salary producing

1 it, but until the state and the citizens of the state
2 learn to share and work together there's nothing
3 that's going to happen.

4 Some of the selling points that are
5 coming off is kind of renewing ignoring the fact that
6 the carbon pollution tax is a way to generate revenue
7 to help low income housing. We all talk about in the
8 Legislature that we're going to have a Comprehensive
9 Energy Plan, however, the Legislature has to go about
10 it and put the teeth into it so that we can all
11 benefit from it, and particularly those who can't
12 afford to put things into place.

13 We have commercial and residential
14 building standards which are not enforced. We, as
15 energy coordinators, go to the zoning administrator
16 and hand out the things about the Comprehensive
17 Energy Plan. You can't even download a copy of it.
18 You have to read it online. So you can't put that in
19 the hand of a contractor who is building a building.
20 You can't put it in the hands of somebody who wants
21 to have an energy efficient house.

22 Stand up and look for zero net energy
23 homes. That can happen. And a couple more. One is
24 gasoline increases in price. We could be adding tax
25 to the top of it and because everybody as soon as

1 things get less expensive goes out and drives more.
2 State retirement investments. It's time to stop
3 being in bed with fossil fuels. Beth Pierce get a
4 clue. And the last thing is the fracked gas
5 hypocrisy. We banned fracking of gas in this state,
6 yet we have all kinds of welcoming things to build a
7 big pipeline to bring it in from somebody else's
8 backyard. Wrong. Learn Vermont and put teeth in it.
9 Thanks.

10 DR. HOPKINS: Elliott Deegan and then
11 Casey Whiteley. Casey Whiteley and then Mark Kelly.

12 MS. WHITELEY: Hi. My name is Casey
13 W-H-I-T-E-L-E-Y. I'm a Montpelier resident and an
14 active volunteer and board member with 350 Vermont
15 which is a climate change organization.

16 The science is still evolving, but we
17 know that we need to keep approximately 4/5's or
18 about 80 percent of all fossil fuels in the ground if
19 we hope to stem the tide or slow down the advance of
20 climate change.

21 Last week in anticipation of the Paris
22 climate talks world leaders, including Angela Merkel
23 and Jim Yong Kim, who is the President of the World
24 Bank, called on all countries to impose a price on
25 carbon as the only way to effectively reduce global

1 emissions. Of course we haven't seen much of this in
2 our news media, but I read about this today.

3 By levying a fee on carbon pollution I
4 believe Vermont can turn the climate crisis in an
5 economic opportunity, and it's probably one of the
6 single most important and effective things that we
7 can do to reduce carbon emissions. Others have
8 pointed to the -- well others haven't. I thought
9 they would have by now, but British Columbia has
10 achieved great success by doing this. The rebate or
11 dividend they are getting on their fee on carbon
12 emissions has lowered their personal income taxes to
13 being the lowest in all of Canada. This is since
14 2008. Their fossil fuel use has dropped by 16
15 percent while the rest of Canada's has jumped by 3
16 percent. Phased in over a 10-year period we can keep
17 our money in-state, we can lower taxes, and fund
18 critical energy conservation programs like home
19 weatherization that have seen decreases and cuts in
20 the last few years. So please include a carbon
21 pollution tax or fee in the Comprehensive Energy
22 Plan. Thank you.

23 DR. HOPKINS: Mark Kelley and then
24 Michael Bender. Something. Handwriting. Michael
25 Bender perhaps after Mark.

1 MR. KELLEY: Mark Kelley K-E-L-L-E-Y.
2 Mark K. About 35 years ago Jay Forrester, who is the
3 MIT professor and an inventor of computer memory in
4 the field of system dynamics, wrote an article about
5 energy in the technology review that he talked about
6 adding a fee of 50 cents on to the cost of a barrel
7 of oil. That was effectively a carbon tax, and one
8 of his points was that he expected the cost of a
9 barrel of oil to increase and the 50 cents would get
10 buried as the price went up. Back then of course the
11 cost of a barrel was \$40 and so as you can imagine
12 the price went way up and it would have disappeared,
13 but in the meantime we would have generated enormous
14 amounts of money that would have been available for
15 energy conservation. So now that the cost of oil is
16 practically down at the same level it's a great time
17 to consider doing the same thing.

18 Now what do you do with that large
19 amount of money that's going to be generated? From
20 what I have seen here we have -- the building sector
21 is one of the largest sectors, about a third of all
22 the energy, and we are essentially ignoring low
23 income weatherization. We're saying well it should
24 happen, but there isn't any plan to make it happen.
25 This is a good way to do it. I think that the idea

1 of having a zero energy building for all new
2 buildings may not be a great idea because, first of
3 all, it's going to make it very expensive to build
4 those new buildings. It's going to make it
5 prohibitive for low income housing to be low income.
6 It's going to make it difficult for middle income
7 housing to exist, and only very wealthy people are
8 going to be able to build zero income housing. So I
9 think the best thing is to try and go back to the
10 drawing board and figure out how to get the low
11 income weatherization to happen. Thanks.

12 DR. HOPKINS: Michael Ben something.

13 MR. BENDER: Hi. My name is Michael
14 Bender. I'm the Director of the Mercury Policy
15 Project. I was a member of the State Mercury
16 Advisory Committee for ten years. I was Chair of
17 that committee. I was also a member of the United
18 Nations Enlightened Program which promotes energy
19 efficiency around the world.

20 Today my comments are limited to focus
21 on the continuing use of mercury added lighting
22 products and why that should be phased out, and I'll
23 specifically reference comments to the European
24 Commission last week where we explained some of the
25 rationale for that, and given that I believe I have a

1 few minutes I need to make this really quick.

2 What we're calling for with the European
3 Commission is to eliminate the mercury exemption for
4 CFLs with less than 30 watts by September 2018,
5 eliminating other mercury exemption for lighting
6 products. The energy efficiency performance, design,
7 and affordability of LED lamps has dramatically and
8 consistently improved over the last few years and
9 these promise to keep on improving. Today even
10 without further improvement LED lamps have
11 advantages. One minute? I just got here. Okay.
12 You guys can have fun reading it.

13 DR. HOPKINS: We'll take the written
14 comments.

15 MR. BENDER: Okay. They use less energy
16 to emit the equivalent lighting output. They are
17 more easily dimmable. They are considered
18 environmentally preferable to a CFL's life cycle cost
19 perspective, and they are mercury free, and we were
20 in conversations last week with IKEA who is no longer
21 selling CFLs as of September of this year, and
22 according to IKEA, and I quote, LED is a light source
23 which uses 85 percent less energy than incandescent
24 bulbs and can last up to 20 years. LED offers high
25 quality light and solutions for different lighting.

1 IKEA LED bulbs are mostly all dimmable and come in
2 all shapes and sizes.

3 And then just finally a very short quote
4 from World Wildlife Fund expressing support for the
5 phase out. In order to move away from our dependency
6 on fossil fuels we need to take advantage of all the
7 opportunities. Almost 20 percent of global
8 electricity consumption comes from lighting. So
9 shifting lighting to LED technology is a cost
10 effective way to get changes. IKEA converting its
11 lighting range to LED will have a real impact in
12 reducing the energy use in many households. Thank
13 you.

14 DR. HOPKINS: George Drew of Barre.

15 MR. DREW: George Drew from Barre and it
16 is a honor to be with so many people that care. I
17 can't understand why it isn't packed. 43 years ago
18 we built a nursing home and we heated it with
19 electricity. That nursing home is now heated with
20 oil. Something happened. I haven't been able to
21 figure out exactly what it is, but I'm on the verge
22 of getting some information that may relate to the
23 state's giving up some of its control in
24 hydroelectric power some time ago. Now if there's
25 someone in the audience that knows that to be a fact,

1 I would appreciate knowing about that.

2 Another thing Canada's got all kinds of
3 electric power. Anybody who knows chemistry or
4 physics you all know all you have to do is run
5 electricity through water to get hydrogen. You may
6 not be using the electricity, but you can store it
7 and make hydrogen out of it. Then you can ship the
8 hydrogen. I think the hydroelectric is a secret and
9 that's a foundation of survival of our future
10 generations because anyone with any brains at all is
11 smart enough to realize we're going down the tube as
12 far as global warming is concerned.

13 DR. HOPKINS: Guess I didn't give a
14 heads up to Bill Brown and then Madison Dell with
15 follow Bill.

16 MR. BROWN: Hi. My name is Bill Brown
17 and I live in Montpelier, and I want to thank the
18 state, the staff, and everybody who is involved in
19 doing the plan, though I do think it could be more
20 aggressive.

21 I believe that climate change is an
22 extremely urgent problem. People are dying now.
23 Many more will die. Many of Vermont's downtowns and
24 whole villages will be destroyed. I'm very concerned
25 about Montpelier's downtown, for instance. I very

1 strongly support a carbon tax phased in over time.
2 Maybe a long time if necessary, maybe over the life
3 of this plan, but to get it started.

4 I also support a miles driven fee tied
5 to motor vehicle registrations partly to fight sprawl
6 which is one of the key ingredients in excessive use
7 of all forms of energy, also conceivably phased in
8 over a long period of time, and I support backup for
9 the electrical grid possibly at the community or the
10 neighborhood level, maybe even at the household
11 level, especially as we load more of the heating load
12 on to electricity and the transportation load in
13 terms of home charging, and this might work very well
14 in connection with new technology, batteries, and a
15 smart electrical grid, and in closing I would say
16 that I think very ambitious goals oftentimes produce
17 really great results. There were people who said
18 that individuals would never use seat belts in cars
19 or that you could never get rivers clean enough to
20 fish in or swim in and lots of other things, and a
21 great deal has been accomplished with ambitious
22 souls. The Apollo program is another example. Thank
23 you.

24 DR. HOPKINS: Madison Dell. So then
25 Michael Nadeau and then Dan Jones.

1 MR. NADEAU: Hi everyone tonight. My
2 name is Michael Nadeau. I have a question mark by my
3 name because I wasn't sure if I'd get a chance to
4 speak tonight. I'm also new to the area. I just
5 moved here recently from Keene, New Hampshire. I'm
6 familiar with Montpelier. For the last five to seven
7 years I've come up often and it's a true pleasure to
8 live in this area. I feel supported quite strongly
9 by this community.

10 We've heard this a lot tonight. I just
11 want to say it one more time that I also strongly
12 support a tax on carbon. I'm sort of doing a crash
13 course on all this as I try to catch myself up to
14 speed, and the tax on carbon just makes so much
15 perfect sense. There seems to be so little to debate
16 about it. What I read in the REMI report, which was
17 just released by the Energy Independent Vermont
18 Coalition, was that \$5 per metric ton of CO2 be taxed
19 -- for every, you know, ton of CO2 you get taxed \$5.
20 That's 9 cents a gallon I think is what I read and it
21 equates to about 9 cents a gallon. I'm happy to pay
22 9 cents a gallon if that's going to turn things
23 around and that's the beginning of a 10-year phase in
24 which turns into a longer phase. I think after 10
25 years I read 50 dollars per ton. That's 90 cents on

1 a gallon and that's ten years from now, and again I'm
2 happy to do that as well, and I think probably
3 everyone here is happy to do that, and I wonder how
4 many more people maybe hear some of these simple
5 numbers that can garner the support for one of these
6 laws being passed quickly. I think we really need to
7 do it.

8 Someone else also mentioned the success
9 in British Columbia. I also read that. It's
10 fantastic it works so we should do it. Lastly, I
11 just want to say I think people really do need
12 boundaries. We need the structures so we need this
13 tax. The freedom to consume as desired doesn't
14 really work when it imposes on others freedom to
15 survive.

16 DR. HOPKINS: Dan Jones and then a
17 gentleman -- I would add one more on the end, but
18 we'll go with.

19 AUDIENCE: Dan Jones left.

20 DR. HOPKINS: All right. So I know
21 there was at least one gentleman who spoke to me
22 about tacking on to the end. So we'll do one or two
23 more if there is anybody interested in a couple
24 additional speakers who weren't able to sign in. So
25 if you want to come up and introduce yourself and

1 have your two minutes.

2 MR. BARNES: Howdy. Garfield Barnes
3 B-A-R-N-E-S from Plainfield, and I've lived in Africa
4 and Australia and all kinds of places. I'm happy to
5 be back in Vermont and see so many people who are
6 aware and active, but there's one thing that concerns
7 me in that our awareness is not shared by everyone
8 and it should be and it would be great to. So I
9 guess it is -- there's some things that I see like
10 the wind and solar areas where in our travels to the
11 southwest I mean you could pave lots of Arizona and
12 New Mexico with solar panels, and North and South
13 Dakota and lots of places with wind, and really,
14 really have the benefit without our passion saying we
15 can do or change everything.

16 I don't want to dissipate any of the --
17 because things like carbon tax there's a lot of
18 things that we do that shove other people away, but
19 sometimes our religion and this gets in the way of
20 being realistic, and possibly we could put together
21 some money and send those who are true believers out
22 to Arizona in the wintertime and spread the word
23 because it's really great to be Vermonters, but
24 sometimes we can overdo it a bit. Thanks.

25 DR. HOPKINS: I think we are two minutes

1 shy of 8 and I think that's probably a good indication
2 that we should actually just try to end on time. So
3 thank you all very much for coming out this evening
4 and for all of your comments. A reminder to visit
5 energyplan.vt.gov and fill in -- send us your written
6 comments as well. What you think of just as you get
7 to the car and oh I wish I had said that, go and fill
8 out the form, send it in, make sure we get it. Tell
9 your friends, colleagues, neighbors to submit their
10 comments as well. Thank you very much and we look
11 forward to appropriating your comments as we can into
12 the best plan we can and hope you all read it when it
13 comes up. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
15 adjourned at 8 p.m.)
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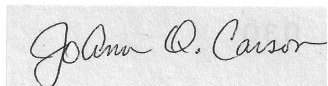
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JoAnn Q. Carson, do hereby certify that I recorded by stenographic means the public meeting re: Comprehensive Energy Plan at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, Noble Hall, 39 College Street School, Montpelier, Vermont, on October 21, 2015, beginning at 7 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting, and the foregoing 30 pages are a transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the evidence and the proceedings, to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties thereto or their Counsel, and I am in no way interested in the outcome of said cause.

Dated at Burlington, Vermont, this 23rd day of October, 2015.



JoAnn Q. Carson
Registered Merit Reporter
Certified Real Time Reporter

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