

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

VERMONT COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN

October 13, 2015  
7:10 p.m.

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2 Educational Drive  
Essex Junction, Vermont

Public Hearing held before the Vermont  
Department of Public Service, at the Essex High School, 2  
Educational Drive, Essex Junction, Vermont, on October 13,  
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P R E S E N T

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1 DR. HOPKINS: Patty Rainville and Sally  
2 Collopy. Apologies in advance to all the things I do  
3 to your names, and just for in the hole is Henry  
4 Bonges. Sorry. Thanks, and we'll go from there. So  
5 three minutes and Patty Rainville.

6 MS. RAINVILLE: I don't have a question.  
7 I wanted to have the opportunity if I had a question  
8 and I don't.

9 DR. HOPKINS: All right. We will jump  
10 on to the next. So Sally Collopy. Thank you.

11 MS. COLLOPY: Sally C-O-L-L-O-P-Y. So  
12 I'm looking at page 295 of the Comprehensive Energy  
13 Plan and I'm not really sure what that means. So  
14 does it mean if the plan is adopted will there be a  
15 stay on any new wind projects until it's done because  
16 under strategy 2 is learn from existing wind --  
17 in-state wind projects to improve the siting and  
18 review requirements and processes for future wind  
19 development. So does that mean -- what does that  
20 mean exactly?

21 DR. HOPKINS: We'll try to make it more  
22 clear just to clarify.

23 MS. COLLOPY: But I do have a suggestion  
24 too.

25 DR. HOPKINS: Just for clarity it's not

1 Q&A. I'm not going to engage in back and forth.

2 MS. COLLOPY: Okay. Under number 2 on  
3 page 295 under strategy 2 under the recommendations I  
4 want to comment that you remove the word consider and  
5 make it mandate to do those health assessments --  
6 health impact assessments now post construction at  
7 all operating projects and preconstruction at all  
8 proposed projects, and so that's my comment and I'm  
9 actually quite surprised to see it in there. Happy,  
10 and I hope it actually means something. Thank you.

11 DR. HOPKINS: Thank you. So next Henry  
12 and then Jonathan Dowds.

13 MR. BONGES: My name is Henry  
14 B-O-N-G-E-S. I'm a resident of Milton, Vermont. I'm  
15 here to comment on your 2015 Comprehensive Energy  
16 Plan draft, 401-page document which I have reviewed  
17 but not read every page. It's a lot of material to  
18 comment on.

19 My specific concern is lack of a carbon  
20 tax. The plan refers to the Total Energy Study that  
21 draws the conclusion that price signals are  
22 sufficient to reduce carbon consumption and market  
23 policies such as carbon tax are not needed. There's  
24 also concern expressed such a tax would be  
25 regressive. I ask a carbon tax to be reconsidered.

1 Books such as the Benefit and Burden, on  
2 tax reform, by Bruce Bartlett, and Thomas Piketty's  
3 book Capital in the 21th Century laud taxing what is  
4 bad versus what is good. I expect they would both  
5 support a carbon tax, but I don't recall such being  
6 specifically mentioned. People respond to price,  
7 though short term memories. Just look at the  
8 Winnebago sales and gas prices since the 70's.  
9 People have a six-month memory at best.

10 Regarding the carbon tax being  
11 regressive, so is the lottery and cigarette taxes,  
12 both highly regressive. The carbon tax would better  
13 prepare all Vermonters for rising energy prices, from  
14 which we are currently shielded by massive government  
15 subsidies to reduce the cost of carbon based energy.  
16 Gas is approximately five and a half dollars a gallon  
17 in France and the United Kingdom and it's half of  
18 that in Vermont. Shielding Vermonters from the true  
19 cost of energy will only hurt those not taking  
20 actions to reduce their carbon footprint.

21 The carbon tax will spur innovation, as  
22 seen by industry response to ozone and CFCs. The  
23 carbon tax should be readily implemented, one of its  
24 main advantages, and financially motivate every  
25 generator of carbon emission to reduce them.

1           As one who actively promotes home energy  
2 retrofits, mass transit, biking, renewable energy,  
3 and local food I know firsthand people respond to  
4 dollars. People are not altruistic by nature,  
5 largely with the attitude that if something is not  
6 hitting them or their wallet today, then they will  
7 worry about it tomorrow. Broad based behavior change  
8 is needed, as noted by Commissioner Copans, and  
9 carbon tax is the best way to achieve that behavior  
10 change. Some pain needs to be felt today as there  
11 will be a lot of pain tomorrow.

12           The carbon tax can help correct the  
13 broken link between energy source and costs and  
14 better prepare all Vermonters for a future without  
15 plentiful subsidized carbon based energy.

16           MS. COLLOPY: Can I go back if I have  
17 time left?

18           DR. HOPKINS: Let's see where we stand  
19 when we have gotten through everybody. If you do  
20 have something written up, as this gentleman did, it  
21 can be very helpful to the court reporter so -- and  
22 also if you have something, time runs out and your  
23 last paragraph didn't get in there, happy to get it  
24 to the court reporter and get the rest of it into the  
25 record so we can review it. So Jonathan Dowds and

1 then Carol Geske.

2 MR. DOWDS: I'm Jonathan D-O-W-D-S. I  
3 would like to thank the DPS for having this public  
4 comment period. I think overall the goals are highly  
5 laudable. I would like to echo the comments of a few  
6 other folks here tonight who said it's important to  
7 have some things that help steer people's decision  
8 making, and that largely that is probably going to be  
9 either pricing based or a strict regulatory approach.  
10 I would encourage the agency to consider making a  
11 stronger more explicit push for that in the  
12 Comprehensive Energy Plan.

13 Finally, on the matter of biofuels the  
14 carbon intensities of these fuels varies a lot  
15 depending on the technologies that are used to  
16 produce them, the land on which the crops are grown.  
17 So I would encourage also an explicit mention of fuel  
18 carbon intensities and then recognition that can  
19 change over time and not to be considered on an  
20 ongoing basis.

21 DR. HOPKINS: Carol Geske and then Steve  
22 Lefkovitz.

23 MS. GESKE: It's Carol and it's  
24 G-E-S-K-E. I'm kind of just going to go down my list  
25 of things. I'm a big supporter of renewables. I'm

1 quite concerned I guess what kind of world we're  
2 passing down to our kids. Concerns about climate  
3 change. I have heard also a lot of apprehension and  
4 even a bit more than that about the wind turbines,  
5 and I'm not really sure where -- what the facts are  
6 with that. I just know that there's a lot of local  
7 folks who are really upset and feeling that their  
8 lives and lifestyle will be directly impacted by  
9 those.

10 So I guess my comment would be to listen  
11 to the locals and also to get the rest of us maybe a  
12 little bit more educated about what's going on  
13 because I don't know, you know, what is really going  
14 on with the turbines. I support the carbon tax also  
15 and just for general information for folks looking  
16 into the future I know someone right now who runs  
17 their car, their Prius, their Toyota Prius totally  
18 free. They put panels on their house. They have a  
19 plug-in. They plug it in and they are able to get to  
20 work and get errands done.

21 The Prius I've got one, but you don't  
22 get, you probably know, a lot of miles out of the  
23 charge, but I guess I wanted people to know that the  
24 solar panels are feasible. And then when you get to  
25 questions I've got a question about how much the



1 subsidies for renewables are as compared to the  
2 fossil fuels, the coal, oil, and natural gas.  
3 Thanks.

4 DR. HOPKINS: Steve Lefkovitz and then  
5 Newt Garland.

6 MR. LEFKOVITZ: Hi. My name is Steve  
7 Lefkovitz. L-E-F-K-O-V-I-T-Z. The federal solar tax  
8 credit is due to expire on 1-1-17, and I think the  
9 state should step in to replace this tax credit with  
10 a local tax credit spread out maybe over ten years  
11 against the local property taxes. Solar panels will  
12 increase the value of the property and increase the  
13 tax base of the locality and we've built a huge solar  
14 industry in Vermont, as I'm told about 2,000 jobs in  
15 the solar industry, and with a 30 percent tax credit  
16 evaporating that industry would disappear. It would  
17 be just the same as cutting half the jobs at IBM in  
18 Essex here.

19 That's firstly, and secondly, there's  
20 between 1,000 or 1,500 active and inactive dams in  
21 Vermont that at one time or another had clean  
22 renewable source of energy from these dams, and I  
23 think hydro power is a good opportunity to explore  
24 that, and I know it's very costly to clean up the  
25 rivers behind the dams, but the state should

1 investigate federal funds to assist with these  
2 clean-ups and get this clean renewable hydro power  
3 online. Thank you.

4 DR. HOPKINS: Newt Garland and then Ned  
5 Farquhar.

6 MR. GARLAND: I'm Newt Garland  
7 G-A-R-L-A-N-D and I pay my taxes. I'm a grandfather  
8 and I care about the future and I think the future  
9 depends on our reducing fossil fuel usage. That's  
10 the most important thing that we could do. So I  
11 would like to see more discussion and perhaps a  
12 recommendation in the energy plan for a carbon  
13 pollution tax. I think that's the most effective way  
14 to reduce -- to get the population to reduce the fuel  
15 usage. Thank you.

16 DR. HOPKINS: Ned Farquhar and then  
17 Jerry Mullen.

18 MR. FARQUHAR: Hi. My name is Ned  
19 Farquhar F-A-R-Q-U-H-A-R and I'm from Vermont Gas,  
20 and I just want to say quickly that gas can be a very  
21 quick and affordable way to reduce carbon and make  
22 clean energy affordable or available to more people.  
23 We have 50,000 -- almost 50,000 customers right now  
24 in Vermont all in northwest Vermont. By using  
25 efficiency programs and displacing oil and propane

1 they save -- prevent emissions equivalent to about 10  
2 percent of Vermont's VMT and that's just in two  
3 counties.

4 So we believe it would be a good thing  
5 to restore recommendations made in the 2011 plan  
6 about making gas available to more people. We also  
7 think it's a great idea to have a lot of heat pumps  
8 out there, but you might not be able to cover the  
9 whole state, and we want to play an important part in  
10 Vermont's clean energy future.

11 The opportunities out there are  
12 significant to help lower income and fixed income  
13 people with their energy costs which can be very  
14 high, especially with propane right now, and our  
15 energy efficiency programs are really good and can  
16 help a lot of those people as well. So thank you for  
17 your time and we recommend restoring the  
18 recommendations in the 2011 plan. Thank you.

19 DR. HOPKINS: Jerry Mullen and then  
20 James Benson.

21 MR. MULLEN: I'm Jerry Mullen  
22 M-U-L-L-E-N, West Bolton, Vermont where I was a  
23 selectman for 15 years. I taught the environmental  
24 study program in Burlington High School from 1971 to  
25 1994. So I was very, very interested in and got to

1 be somewhat knowledgeable about this topic, and I'm  
2 really glad to see all these things starting to come  
3 to pass. However, last year when I was running for  
4 the Legislature I kept hearing from people all over  
5 that they were being taxed out of their homes. So  
6 when I first heard about carbon taxes I got to  
7 thinking holy cow one more tax, how can people stand  
8 that. Then I got to thinking two years ago we put 32  
9 solar panels on our roof. I figure they are going to  
10 pay for themselves in 8 years and they have a  
11 lifetime of 20. So it looks like a pretty good deal.  
12 We have put out as of sunset today 18,500  
13 kilowatthours. I have been getting electric bills  
14 since April which say credit do not pay.

15           If you have a carbon tax I think people,  
16 especially low income people, are going to have a  
17 good benefit out of this. Now I could not have done  
18 this without some subsidies of getting these and  
19 that's going to be important, but maybe the carbon  
20 tax can help pay for that.

21           One other thing I would like to mention.  
22 Some of you may remember the oil embargo of 1973 when  
23 some countries that didn't like what the United  
24 States was doing stopped oil shipments and brought  
25 the country to a dead halt. At the time I was

1 finishing up the Air Force command at Staff College  
2 and it seemed as if the lesson of that was that any  
3 country that presumes to be a major power is not --  
4 is just in delusion if it doesn't control its own  
5 energy and this is a way to stay a major power.  
6 Thank you.

7 DR. HOPKINS: James Benson and then  
8 Steve Comeau.

9 MR. BENSON: James Benson B-E-N-S-O-N  
10 Shelburne, Vermont. Director Hopkins, Members of the  
11 Selectboard, Ladies and Gentlemen, my comment is  
12 regarding a net metering power permit which I  
13 submitted in March. I attended a Selectboard meeting  
14 in Shelburne and planning and zoning meeting as well.  
15 All of the permit process and attending these  
16 meetings was very time consuming. A member of the  
17 Selectboard made a comment that my permit was very  
18 complete and accurate and that he had seen many of  
19 these permits before.

20 I live in an area that is zoned for  
21 agricultural use. I submitted my permit seven months  
22 ago and I've not heard on the status. I've called  
23 ten times leaving voice messages with no replies. My  
24 comment is how can I help you meet your Vermont  
25 Comprehensive Energy Plan when I can't get any

1 information on the status of my permit. Thank you.

2 DR. HOPKINS: Steve Comeau and then Bob  
3 Buermann.

4 MR. COMEAU: Steve Comeau C-O-M-E-A-U.  
5 My comments are on the -- primarily on the Section  
6 4.1 Total Energy Consumption Today. Section 4.1 of  
7 the plan. It's important to understanding the  
8 progress to which renewables are the historical trend  
9 of the renewable percentage in the fuel mix breakdown  
10 of the renewals.

11 The charts in exhibit 4-2 on page 28 are  
12 very unclear and barely readable. The solar is  
13 lumped in as solar, methane, et cetera. Solar should  
14 be in a separate section of the pie chart as it is  
15 normally considered the best example of new renewable  
16 energy.

17 The charts in exhibit 4-2 show  
18 consumption counted before REC sales or purchases.  
19 It does not explain or justify in the section of the  
20 plan how renewable energy can be counted as part of  
21 the renewable energy mix if the RECs are sold out of  
22 state. For example, wind is claimed at 4 percent and  
23 Green Mountain Power's web site shows wind at 0  
24 percent after the RECs are sold. So it seems that  
25 most wind energy currently should not be counted as

1 renewable in Vermont if the RECs are sold out of  
2 state.

3 The renewable energy sources are  
4 described but the description is unclear, and there  
5 is no chart showing the percentage allocations or  
6 renewable energy sources. There's also no historical  
7 trend of renewable energy totals or the trend of the  
8 separate sources.

9 There was a discrepancy between what was  
10 described tonight as 20 percent -- 16 percent is the  
11 current percentage of total energy that is renewable  
12 in Vermont, but on page 26 it says currently  
13 renewable energy makes up less than 20 percent of  
14 Vermont's total consumption of energy. Now 16  
15 percent is less than 20 percent, but the implication  
16 is here that one would think that the goal -- that  
17 the current status is about 20 percent. So I think  
18 this whole Section 4.1 for a normal reader is very  
19 unclear, it's very hard to follow, and it's the most  
20 critical section of the report because that's where  
21 it really lays out the percentage of electricity --  
22 of energy that is renewable in Vermont. Thank you.

23 DR. HOPKINS: Bob Buermann and then  
24 Steve Crowley.

25 MR. BUERMANN: Bob Buermann

1 B-U-E-R-M-A-N-N, South Hero. I'm a member of the  
2 Grand Isle County Energy Committee and the Northwest  
3 Regional Planning Commission Energy Committee which  
4 is one of your three regions working on our regional  
5 methodology. A couple comments.

6 First off I am in support of the 90  
7 percent by 50 when we consider it is part of a local  
8 generation and local usage. What's behind that is  
9 the previous plan cites small distributed energy  
10 generation partly to reduce any need for expansion of  
11 the power lines or new power lines. What we've seen  
12 over the last couple of years and being proposed over  
13 the next one or two years is actually large  
14 generation plants which require new lines. For  
15 example, the three power lines going down the lake,  
16 the northeast corridor line, and in fact even the  
17 Lowell Mountain line to connect to Jay was also a  
18 larger expansion. So we're seeing, as we do in these  
19 larger generation plans, we're actually causing more  
20 construction and we're not getting the power where it  
21 really needs to be used. So I want to encourage ways  
22 to incentivize developers for doing smaller projects  
23 near where we need the power as opposed to large  
24 projects that are sending it down to Massachusetts  
25 and New York and Connecticut and New Jersey and



1 everywhere south of us.

2 My other concern is related to public  
3 transportation. I asked you earlier about a question  
4 for vehicle miles traveled. I'm also on the CCTA  
5 board. So I like to strongly encourage when you look  
6 at your large usage of transportation in fact our  
7 largest carbon impact appears to be transportation.  
8 We keep talking about the electricity. We've got to  
9 find a way to get more public transportation in our  
10 little part of the state. Thank you.

11 DR. HOPKINS: Steve Crowley and then  
12 Jane Stromberg.

13 MR. CROWLEY: Hi. Steve Crowley  
14 C-R-O-W-L-E-Y. Well thanks for the opportunity to be  
15 here and enter some comments tonight. I think the  
16 plan is really exciting. There's so many things  
17 going on in Vermont. It really is just exciting to  
18 look at all that and see how much quality work is  
19 happening.

20 As I look through the plan, though, I  
21 keep feeling like it needs a stronger sense of  
22 urgency. You know climate change has been increasing  
23 more rapidly in recent years. The facts of climate  
24 change, the storms, the fires, and what's in the  
25 pipeline for climate change is there and it's going

1 to be coming at us even faster. So there really  
2 isn't time to gradually work into these reductions.  
3 Every opportunity should be taken to strengthen the  
4 plan.

5 I think there are lots of opportunities.  
6 The shortened timelines to deploy renewables around  
7 the State of Vermont to avoid future fossil fuel  
8 infrastructure that's going to commit us to increase  
9 emissions for decades. I think the carbon tax is a  
10 critical tool in making this happen.

11 For one, you know, gradual increase over  
12 a decade would provide the consumer signals and would  
13 gradually change a lot of the choices people make,  
14 and although proposals out there are mostly revenue  
15 neutral it could also generate a stream of funding,  
16 and it could be a considerable stream of funding, and  
17 you look through the plan at the recommendations and  
18 see so many of the recommendations could be made  
19 stronger with the stronger source of funding.

20 So I think, you know, if you wanted to  
21 look at one key leverage point in this whole plan it  
22 would be the carbon pollution tax. Thank you very  
23 much.

24 DR. HOPKINS: Jane Stromberg and then  
25 Christine Lang.

1 MS. STROMBERG: Good evening. My name  
2 is Jane Stromberg S-T-R-O-M-B-E-R-G. I am currently  
3 attending the University of Vermont. So anyway when  
4 I was younger I dreamed about being a doctor. I was  
5 going to do the whole enchilada, go to medical school  
6 and everything. As I took many courses in high  
7 school I opened my eyes to the urgency of the  
8 environmental issues at hand. I completely changed  
9 direction and became heavily involved with town  
10 politics involving my environmental issues that were  
11 happening around me, and then I was inspired to come  
12 up to Vermont because again a very fast growing  
13 community with regards to that.

14 I am part of the renewable energy  
15 network at the university and that started one  
16 semester ago and we are fast growing, recruiting  
17 hundreds of kids, and people who are crazy about  
18 this. We are passionate. We want to see something.  
19 The plan it sounds great, but, you know, 90 percent  
20 of renewable by 2050 I'm going to be 53 years old  
21 when that's here. I think that deploying carbon tax  
22 will give some people initiative to move forward by  
23 reducing the carbon emissions that are just impending  
24 danger to all of us. I mean how can I be a doctor  
25 and, you know, most -- like a lot of problems are

1 people coming in with, you know, health problems  
2 regarding breathing and, you know, pollutions in the  
3 air. It's like we got to go way back to the source,  
4 and, you know, stop the issue instead of trying to  
5 treat people with problems that are -- they are just  
6 walking in with. So thank you for your time and  
7 yeah.

8 DR. HOPKINS: Christine Lang and then  
9 Sally you're on here twice so you are actually next  
10 on the list anyway. So you can come up and get your  
11 extra one minute or so. You would be welcome.

12 MR. LANG: Hi. I'm Christine Lang  
13 L-A-N-G. On page 290 and 291 you talk about health  
14 that has to do with industrial wind turbines, but  
15 there's nothing in there about siting for industrial  
16 wind turbines and how to protect the health of the  
17 citizens of the State of Vermont. The State of Maine  
18 and the State of New Hampshire are both working on  
19 making improvements to their siting standards.  
20 Vermont is not following in that and they should be  
21 looking into that.

22 Our current noise standard allows  
23 outside a bedroom window averaged over an hour not to  
24 exceed 45 decibels. Now on those pages you tout a  
25 Canadian health study and say that they determined

1 there's no issues with the industrial wind turbines,  
2 but a recent Canadian study has found that people  
3 exposed to decibel levels greater than or equal to 40  
4 are extremely highly annoyed and then a study  
5 connects that annoyance to health issues. So there  
6 are issues when it comes to that, and in the State of  
7 New Hampshire what they are trying to adopt right  
8 now, and they are quite a ways along on that, is a  
9 not to exceed standard of 45 decibels during the day,  
10 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. That's a not to exceed, not an  
11 average. An average allows you to be very loud at  
12 times and then drop down and be very loud and then  
13 drop down. This is a not to exceed, and then not to  
14 exceed 40 decibels at all other times of the day and  
15 night so that people can sleep and people can protect  
16 their health.

17 I think that the state needs to look at  
18 the issues, and the other thing is if you're going to  
19 put in a standard like that, you have to be able to  
20 monitor it. You don't monitor it at any of the sites  
21 right now around the State of Vermont. The only  
22 monitoring is done by the wind companies and the  
23 people who are living there call a number, get an  
24 answering machine, leave a message, and then they  
25 call them back. No we're in standard. How do you

1 know? Nobody knows. So that needs to be continuous  
2 third-party monitoring that's transparent.

3 And what's happened because of -- I  
4 think because of this lack of siting is that there's  
5 now no community support for renewable energy in a  
6 lot of communities in Vermont right now, and that's a  
7 really bad thing. It's a bad precedent that we're  
8 setting. There are at least 67 communities in the  
9 State of Vermont right now that are fighting  
10 renewables. I'm not against renewable energy. I'm  
11 against renewable energy in the wrong places and done  
12 the wrong way, and the State of Vermont needs to put  
13 some measures into their -- into this plan and that  
14 will allow them to regain the confidence of the  
15 communities.

16 My only other question I really have is  
17 this plan we have these comments and all this stuff.  
18 How does anything that any of these people are saying  
19 and stuff get into the plan, and could there be an  
20 appendix to the plan which then would tell -- you  
21 could look at to see whether your comments or which  
22 things came from people's comments at these meetings.  
23 Thank you.

24 DR. HOPKINS: Sally, I'll allow you to  
25 revise and extend your remarks, and I think this

1 gentleman was next and then we'll allow anybody else  
2 because we have a few more -- a little more time for  
3 any thoughts from others.

4 MS. COLLOPY: Okay. I just want to tack  
5 on a little bit to what Christine just said that  
6 communities we feel are being abused by energy  
7 developers whose coercive tactics are being abetted  
8 by Vermont state government, and our recommendations  
9 are that the CEP should acknowledge that the state  
10 has lost support of many communities and turned  
11 against renewables. They have been cut out of the  
12 planning process. The regional planning commissions'  
13 plans are not respected and taken into consideration.  
14 The selectboards' desires and wishes are not  
15 respected and taken into consideration, and we feel  
16 that that needs to be changed in order for Vermonters  
17 to regain confidence again in their communities.

18 And we also want to acknowledge that the  
19 siting decisions that compromise Vermont's  
20 environment and damaged our communities and that the  
21 siting standards should prohibit forest  
22 fragmentation, not compromise wetlands, require  
23 developers to work with and not against the state  
24 communities, respect municipal and regional plans,  
25 and do not allow energy investments that encroach

1 upon neighbors like the Swanton wind project that is  
2 proposed to have the largest turbines in the state  
3 closest to any homes to date. So we need to learn --  
4 like I said, on page 225 of your program we need to  
5 learn from our past mistakes and not continue to make  
6 the same mistakes or even worse mistakes as is  
7 proposed with Swanton wind. Thank you.

8 DR. HOPKINS: Is there anybody else who  
9 wants -- we'll go here and then there.

10 MR. PATALANO: Joe Patalano  
11 P-A-T-A-L-A-N-O. I'm from Burlington and I just want  
12 to echo what people have said about the global  
13 warming is upon us and we really need to act boldly  
14 in its path. I'm a psychologist so very often what I  
15 do with people is I help them develop a cost benefit  
16 analysis for whatever decisions they have to make,  
17 and one of the things that needs to be factored into  
18 the decision about energy, and I'm not only talking  
19 about heat and transportation I'm talking about  
20 everything that we do in our daily lives; ordering  
21 things on Amazon, to the packaging that we buy things  
22 in, people need to have a way to know how energy and  
23 how fossil fuels figure into the costs. Government  
24 needs to help people learn, all of us learn, the  
25 implications of our actions. We can't do a cost



1 benefit analysis unless we know the role and the cost  
2 of fossil fuel in the decisions we make. So I want  
3 to argue for a carbon tax that makes us all look at  
4 the cost of what we're doing. Thank you.

5 DR. HOPKINS: Thank you.

6 MR. KAYNOR: Hello, Chapin K-A-Y-N-O-R  
7 Williston, and this is more a comment out of  
8 ignorance. I didn't plan to comment, but I am aware  
9 that, for instance, in Norway sales of new  
10 automobiles are in the double digits of plug-in all  
11 electric vehicles, and I'm wondering what incentives  
12 -- I actually know a little bit, but I don't want to  
13 spread any misinformation.

14 I'm wondering what incentives they are  
15 doing and are they ones we could put in this plan,  
16 and in a similar way in countries that have a higher  
17 proportion of wind power what are their siting  
18 criteria and could we basically do more borrowing of  
19 other things to make recommendations. Thank you.

20 DR. HOPKINS: Is there anybody else who  
21 wanted to make a comment or is this our final one?  
22 All right. Last one. Thank you.

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you. William Scott  
24 and I'm from Burlington, and I just want to speak in  
25 favor of including a carbon tax as part of the

1 state's plan because I think it will go a long way  
2 toward supporting all the other goals and programs in  
3 the plan including, you know, improving improvements  
4 in efficiency, transformation to clean energy  
5 sources, and as I said earlier inducing capital  
6 investment in clean energy because right now all of  
7 the -- all the decision making in this area is  
8 affected by the enormous subsidies that fossil fuels  
9 receive which result in a distortion of the prices.

10 Recently the International Monetary Fund  
11 estimated that for this year fossil fuel subsidies in  
12 the world will total 5.3 trillion, and that's with a  
13 T, dollars, and that amount exceeds all the money  
14 that governments currently spend on health care. So  
15 every time someone looks at this question they see  
16 that the subsidies are much greater than was  
17 previously thought, and the distortions in the  
18 decision making process are therefore greater than  
19 was previously understood. The carbon tax just  
20 simply starts to take some of the -- those subsidies  
21 back and correct some of this terrible imbalance in  
22 the pricing system.

23 Clearly a carbon tax is regressive. I  
24 don't know if it's any more regressive than the sales  
25 tax or other forms of excise taxes that exist in

1 Vermont and elsewhere, but most of the plans -- every  
2 plan I've seen for Vermont corrects this by  
3 redistributing a major portion of the revenue. So  
4 while we still have a sales tax that is regressive,  
5 under these plans the carbon tax would not be and  
6 unlike many taxes it's also been found to increase  
7 economic growth rather than impede it. So for those  
8 reasons I really do support its inclusion in the  
9 plan. Thank you.

10 DR. HOPKINS: All right. Thank you all  
11 very much for your comments. We will review the  
12 transcript and the authors of the relevant chapters  
13 will review your comments. We do -- to answer one  
14 question we do at the very least plan to make all the  
15 comments we received available. One of the  
16 advantages of the online form that you will find at  
17 energy plan.vt.gov is it allows us to very easily  
18 collect all comments. The form is set out by  
19 comments so we can make sure the comments get to the  
20 authors of the relevant sections and then we can  
21 quickly process those. At the very least make the  
22 comments public. If not, we'll see what we can do in  
23 terms of elucidating in some sort of summary report  
24 those comments and how they have informed the final  
25 plan.

1                   So again your written comments are very  
2 welcome. Comment period is open until the 9th of  
3 November. Tell your friends. Tell your colleagues.  
4 The thoughts you have in the car on the way home, oh  
5 I wish I had said, well we have an opportunity.  
6 Please go to [energyplan.vt.gov](http://energyplan.vt.gov). Click on the comment  
7 link, fill it out, and send us your thoughts. Very  
8 much appreciate it. Thank you for coming out and  
9 sharing your evening with us and have a great night.

10                   (Whereupon, the proceeding was  
11 adjourned at 7:50 p.m.)  
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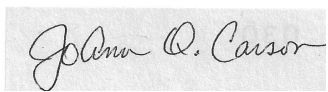
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I, JoAnn Q. Carson, do hereby certify that I recorded by stenographic means the public meeting re: Comprehensive Energy Plan at the Essex Junction High School, 2 Educational Drive, Essex Junction, Vermont, on October 13, 2015, beginning at 7:10 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting, and the foregoing 28 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 15th day of October, 2015.



\_\_\_\_\_  
JoAnn Q. Carson  
Registered Merit Reporter  
Certified Real Time Reporter

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