



**Date:** May 2, 2017  
**To:** Planning Commission and Selectboard Members  
**From:** Karen B. Horn, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy ([khorn@vlct.org](mailto:khorn@vlct.org))  
Gwynn Zakov, Municipal Policy Advocate ([Gzakov@vlct.org](mailto:Gzakov@vlct.org))  
**Re:** Senate to Vote on Amendment to H.411 Giving Energy Planning Flexibility to Municipalities and Regional Commissions

Local officials are discovering that compliance with Act 174 – the energy planning bill passed in the last days of the 2016 legislative session – will be complex, time consuming and expensive. In the meantime, the Public Service Board continues to approve Certificates of Public Good (CPGs) for renewable energy facilities. According to the Vermont Energy Dashboard, more than 7,000 CPGs have been issued for solar PV sites – 1,676 of them in 2016. Approximately 160 CPGs have been issued for wind facilities. While many of these facilities are welcome in and sized to the host community, many others are not, and local officials have struggled to get their recommendations heard or plans respected in the process.

Tomorrow (Wednesday), an amendment will be offered on the Senate floor that would address three items of concern to local officials who are in the process of writing energy plans in compliance with Act 174 of 2016. The amendment will most likely be proposed for addition to H.411, a bill amending energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment.

As drafted, the amendment would eliminate the requirement established in Act 174 for a regional plan to allow for siting of all types of renewable generation technologies. Second, it would allow municipal officials to make the determination that planning for energy efficient, renewable, or alternative transportation in compliance with Act 174 would be most effectively and realistically addressed at the regional level rather than local level.

Third, the amendment would require the Public Service Board to give substantial deference to recommendations of municipal and regional planning commissions, and municipal legislative bodies as well as land conservation measures contained in a municipal plan until July 1, 2023, even if the duly adopted plan of the municipality or region has not obtained an affirmative determination of energy compliance within that timeframe.

Please contact your senators. Urge them to support Senator Rodger's amendment to H.411.

To contact your senators, find their email at the legislative website (<http://legislature.vermont.gov>) or call the Sergeant at Arms at 802-828-2228 to leave a message.

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