

From: eiwalch@verizon.net <eiwalch@verizon.net>

Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 7:35 AM

To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>

Subject: Act 18/Clean Heat Standard feedback

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Hello,

I have looked around to try to find any specific place to give feedback about the Clean Heat Standard/Act 18 and couldn't find anything, so I'm emailing you, please pass along to whoever this should go to.

I am DEEPLY opposed to the implementation of the Clean Heat Standard, which focuses on Global Warming, not on life in Vermont, and has the goal of switching many VT households from their current heat to electric heat pumps.

The electrical grid is profoundly unreliable. I am a customer of Green Mountain Power and my power goes out at least once a month. I have had several multi-day outages, including two five-day winter outages (when there were also lines down on the main road near my house, so the plows couldn't get in and I couldn't leave - for five days!) since I moved to my home in 2017.

If I had electric-dependent heat during this time, my water pipes would have frozen and the house would have been damaged when they thawed and burst and I would have probably died from the cold. Thankfully these were in the winter, so I could pack my freezers with snow and ice to keep my food from spoiling, and I had five gallon buckets of water ready to go to flush and wash with. And I heat with wood and a propane heater that doesn't use electric.

Pushing people towards electric and penalizing users of fossil fuels (which are the only reliable heat source we have, unless the furnace or boiler requires electricity to ignite or distribute the heat) when our electrical supply is already overwhelmed and unreliable is just mind-blowing.

Our car registration fees just went way up, we have a new payroll tax, we have massively increased property taxes, it costs \$5 for a loaf of bread. We cannot afford to be penalized by having an increased fee on our heat and if people try to avoid that increased fossil fuel charge and then switch to a heat pump, they cannot afford to put in a fossil fuel generator that they'll need for backup when the electricity goes out for a week (as it is right now for 9,000 GMP customers!!!).

Can you please just kill this stupid bill and exercise some common sense, which Vermonters used to be known for? The legislature doesn't care about citizens. Could

you be the one government agency that cares enough about ordinary people to stop this?

Sincerely,
Erica Walch
Newfane, VT