

From: [BLAIR ENMAN](#)
To: [PUC - Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Greenberg: Clean Heat Standard brings other benefits
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:01:15 AM

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Below is an email forwarded to the author of a commentary in a recent edition of the Rutland Herald. I believe the reply is completely self explaining. We would be better served by a suggested alternative.

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: BLAIR ENMAN <bcenman@aol.com>
Date: October 31, 2024 at 10:08:45 AM EDT
To:
Subject: Greenberg: Clean Heat Standard brings other benefits

Mr. Greenberg,

Questions of cost and implementation are two critical questions. And every taxpayer should expect every legislator to ask the important questions. I might hope those are questions you might ask, too.

I'm a retired Vermont professional civil engineer registered with the Vermont secretary of state. I've greater than 50 years in design and planning for stormwater infrastructure. That includes assessing the damage done and recovery design. As an engineer I am also trained in your questions of the inverse, value engineering. You open with;

In each of the last two years, we've been through floods costing millions of dollars in direct economic damage, not to mention opportunity costs, the costs of dislocation and loss of jobs and livelihoods, as well as the psychological and sociological impacts which follow such catastrophic events.

I'll not dispute your statement, it is well articulated. Following TS Irene, 2011, some 13 years ago, our firm was retained to provide engineering for several of Rutland count's devastated communities. So, I know a little bit about flood damage.

If money were no object we could throw it in any which direction. Sadly, we are Vermont, no ability to risk the taxpayers money and limited capacity to ask them for more. If Vermont invests in climate change resilience then Vermont taxpayers must know beyond a shadow of a doubt that every dollar spent will result in immediate and forever ending of these “catastrophic events.”

Sadly, there is no evidence that the clean heat standard will forever end these catastrophic events. Aside from the dream that the clean heat standard will change Mother Nature’s course, the investment is a fools errand.

For 175 years since the first Industrial Revolution our world has spewed carbon into the environment. The effects of climate change are here to stay. If little old Vermont were to eliminate all carbon, it would not change the world’s carbon scale by one iota. I’ll repeat, a fools errand.

The reality is since Homo sapiens first walked the earth, humans have lived in the river corridor. We did it for power, we did it for agriculture, we did it for transportation, and we did it for survival. It just made sense.

We can keep building and rebuilding our infrastructure in the river corridors, or we can move out of harm way. The latter has a guarantee that we will reduce the effect of “... *floods costing millions of dollars in direct economic damage, not to mention opportunity costs, the costs of dislocation and loss of jobs and livelihoods, as well as the psychological and sociological impacts which follow such catastrophic events.*”

Rep. McCoy is right to question investing in the Clean Heat Standard. I believe we will deal with climate change for an eternity, and any investment in stopping it will be forever unfruitful. We will never win in reversing the effects of climate change.

We must accept the reality, humans messed up the world following the first Industrial Revolution, long before any of us were born. The time is now to accept it, to reengineer Vermont’s future, and not dwell in the past. Moving out of harms way is the best and likely only solution.

I hope you will join me. Let’s identify the most vulnerable communities in Vermont. Let’s move those in the greatest risk out of harms way. Let’s reduce the effects of these catastrophic events on Vermonters. Let’s return the river corridor to Mother Nature. For if we do not, she will continue to ravage what we create.

Now is not the time to chase dreams. We know what we need to do. Let’s do it.

Blair Enman, PE, retired
Rutland Town

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