

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 7, 2011

Annette Smith
Vermonters for a Clean Environment
789 Baker Brook Road
Danby, VT 05739

Dear Annette,

Thank you for taking the time to write on behalf of Vermonters for a Clean Environment. I appreciate the offer of your group's expertise on climate change and energy issues.

As you well know, any form of power generation will have some environmental impacts. We need to find sources that will mitigate those impacts as much as possible. Vermont must come together to find local, clean, low-emission, renewable energy to reduce our carbon footprint and spur the local economy. Wind power would accomplish that here in Vermont.

I do, however, believe that Vermont must weigh the benefits of wind power against the concerns of communities in which these projects are proposed. The decision to put up wind turbines is a decision best made by the potential host community, and their vote on the matter should stand.

There are areas in Vermont, though, that are so precious that we would never put wind there, and we will be taking them off the map. I recently asked Secretary Deb Markowitz to identify these locations. We value the environmental community's input on these decisions, and I have brought your letter to her attention.

Again, thank you for your letter and for VCE's efforts to preserve our state's unique beauty. If there is ever anything further that I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a circular stamp or watermark.

Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/bp