



# Vermont State Legislature

## **Shaping Vermont's Response to Climate Change**

Community Energy and Climate Action Conference

Saturday, December 6, 2014 | Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee

**The Future Transportation System, Putting Policy into Action**

**Representative Diane Lanpher, Vergennes, VT**



# Vermont State Legislature

## Tips for Successful Legislative Strategy

- The most fundamental and effective way to influence the legislative process is by voicing your opinion and concerns to elected officials.
- Vermont Legislators speak directly with citizens, instead of getting turned away by secretaries or other staff members.
- Nothing impresses Legislators as much as citizens willing to discuss local issues or state topics.
- Individuals or groups who make the effort to speak their mind are worth an Army of lobbyists in Montpelier.



# Vermont State Legislature

[www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us)

## **Getting Started**

Who is my Representative?

Who is my Senator?

How A bill becomes a law?

Frequently asked questions?

[NOTE: Each Committee has it's own "Standing Committee Page"](#)



# Each Committee has it's own Standing Committee Page

[www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us)

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the URL [http://www.leg.state.vt.us/legds/committeeinfo.cfm?CommitteeID=2018\\_ga=1.257872309.925043082.1413135145](http://www.leg.state.vt.us/legds/committeeinfo.cfm?CommitteeID=2018_ga=1.257872309.925043082.1413135145). The browser tabs include 'connectingcommuters.org', 'Google Calendar', 'Workspace Login', 'Vermont Legislature', and 'House Committee on Trans...'. The browser's address bar shows the URL, and the search bar contains 'epit'. The browser's menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favorites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The browser's status bar shows 'X Find: epit', 'Previous', 'Next', and 'Options'. The browser's taskbar shows the Windows logo, several application icons, and the system tray with the date '10/5/2014' and time '10:15 AM'. The website content is as follows:

## Vermont State Legislature

Home House Senate Legislative Council Joint Fiscal Office Sergeant at Arms Visitor Services

### Members

Rep. Patrick Brennan, Chair  
Rep. Dave Potter, Vice Chair  
Rep. Timothy R. Coorsan,  
Ranking Member  
Rep. Clem Bissonnette  
Rep. Mollie S. Burke  
Rep. Anne Gullivan  
Rep. Duncan F. Kilmarin  
Rep. Diane Langley, Clerk  
Rep. Mike McCarthy  
Rep. Herb Russell  
Rep. Kurt Wright

### Staff

### Links

Previous Meetings  
Bills In Committee  
Bills Out Of Committee  
Reports and Resources

### Additional Information

1-7-2014-Francete  
Cerulea-Witness  
Information.pdf  
Posted 1/7/2014

### House Committee on Transportation (Room 43)

The House Committee on Transportation considers matters relating to all transportation companies and corporations subject to the regulation of the Public Service Board, and all air and surface transportation, including its registration and regulation and the licensing of its operations and the construction and maintenance of its thoroughfares and the regulation of the users thereof.

### Agenda

No meeting is currently scheduled.

### Documents and Handouts

Click on a link below to show documents sorted by subject, date, bill or witness

Sort by Subject  
Sort by Bill  
Sort by Date  
Sort by Witness

Search:  Search

Materials available on the House Transportation page are provided for informational purposes only, and may not comprise all materials received by the Committee. The Committee is not responsible for the accuracy of any information in these materials, and their posting does not constitute approval or endorsement by the Committee or by the Vermont General Assembly.

### Week of April 28, 2014

► Thursday, May 1, 2014

### Week of April 7, 2014

► Thursday, April 10, 2014  
► Wednesday, April 9, 2014

### Week of March 31, 2014

► Thursday, April 3, 2014  
► Wednesday, April 2, 2014  
► Tuesday, April 1, 2014

### Week of March 24, 2014



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Once a bill is introduced contact your elected officials and express your support or opposition to it.

## Here are a few tips to help you along the way:\*

**Identify the Bill or Issue** – Over 1,000 bills are introduced to the VT State Legislature each year. If you write about a particular piece of legislation, be specific, and reference the bill number.

**Timely** – Inform your elected officials while there is still time to take action.

**Focus on Your Own Delegation** – As a constituent, your views are most valued by the Members who depend on you for re-election. Focus your energy on them.

*\*(Source: selected Vermont Lobbying firms)*



# Vermont State Legislature

## **Tips continued:**

**Be Reasonably Brief** - Keep your letter concise and to the point.

**Ask for a Response** – If your elected official is vague in his or her response, write again and request clarification. Don't hesitate to ask questions. Your elected official works for you. Don't sound demanding or threatening, however.

**Give your Reasons for Taking a Stand** – Your representative may not know all the effects of the bill and what it may mean to an important segment of his or her constituency.

**Be Constructive** – If a bill deals with a problem you admit exists, but you believe it takes the wrong approach, offer your elected official an alternative.





# Vermont State Legislature

## **Tips continued:**

**Ask for Specific Action** – If your questions or concerns are general (i.e., “I hope you are for renewable energy”) you will most likely receive a form letter. Ask for specific action, such as co-sponsoring a bill or supporting an amendment.

**Share Expert Knowledge With your Representative** – No one can possibly be an expert in all fields; many constituents are experts in some of them. Legislators welcome expert advice and counsel.

**Say “Well Done” When it is Deserved** – Members of Congress are human too, and they appreciate an occasional “well done” from people who believe they have done the right thing. But even if you think your representative went wrong on an issue, a non-threatening letter stating your disagreement would be welcome; it may help on another issue later.