

Vermont House Bill H.654

Email or call your Vermont state representative(s) and ask them to co-sponsor this bill to prepare Vermont for the discontinuities of a post-peak oil world!

To find your representative's contact information, go to www.leg.state.vt.us

H.654: An act relating to expanding emergency planning to address land use issues, including food supply planning, distributed power planning, and water supply planning.

Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Botzow of Pownal, Darrow of Dummerston, Deen of Westminster, Johnson of South Hero, Kiss of Burlington, Klein of East Montpelier, McCullough of Williston, McLaughlin of Royalton and Zuckerman of Burlington

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the secretary of agriculture, food and markets to develop guidelines for use in establishing local and regional food supply plans and to develop a state food supply plan. It proposes to require the director of emergency management to coordinate emergency planning efforts with long-range land use initiatives, including food supply planning efforts, drinking water supply planning efforts, and power planning efforts that would assure distributed renewable power facilities are located so as to provide service for critical local facilities. It proposes to require the council of regional commissions to coordinate development of the state food supply plan, regional food supply plans, and any local food supply plans. It proposes to require the council to coordinate the work of the regions and the towns in identifying fire and safety facilities, hospitals, emergency shelters, and other critical local facilities that should be recipients of locally based, renewable distributed power and in developing recommendations for the siting of these facilities. It proposes to require the council to review the status of aquifer mapping and water source protection efforts and to make appropriate recommendations on that issue.

It proposes to allow municipalities to establish local food supply districts and to adopt local food supply plans, which may include: completion of an inventory of soils within the municipality; the creation of a program to assure soils are sufficient to feed the local population with locally grown food; and a program of inducements for obtaining landowner commitments to make specified tillable land available for local food production purposes in time of extended shortages of petroleum and other nonrenewable sources of energy. It proposes to establish the powers and duties of local food supply commissions.

The bill proposes to require regional planning commissions to develop regional food supply plans and coordinate with others working on food supply planning. It proposes to require regional planning commissions to inventory fire and safety facilities, hospitals, and other critical local facilities, assure establishment of emergency shelters, and work with others to see that these facilities are served by distributed, renewable power facilities. It proposes to require the regional plans to facilitate development and implementation of food supply planning and to indicate areas proposed for the siting of facilities to provide locally generated renewable power to critical regional service providers. It proposes, effective July 1, 2008, to prohibit regional plans from providing for the conversion of primary agricultural soils until the region has adopted a regional food supply plan and has determined that the soils planned for conversion will not be needed for those purposes.

The bill proposes to require the Department of Public Service, in developing the state electric energy plan, to take into account the siting of distributed power facilities so as to serve critical local facilities and to consult with the council of regional commissions. It proposes to require the department, in developing the state energy plan, to make recommendations for replacement of oil-based fuels with biofuels produced within the state and recommendations for how the state energy plan may support food supply planning.

Full text of this bill is available as a pdf at www.vtpeakoil.net – click on *What's New* page, then on H654.