

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 6, 2024

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm vetoing H.887, *An act relating to homestead property tax yields, nonhomestead rates, and policy changes to education finance and taxation*, because of my objections described herein.

Vermonters cannot afford a double-digit property tax increase. Especially while facing a historic eight-percent property tax increase last year, a 20% increase in DMV fees, a new payroll tax taking effect July 1, increased fuel costs to heat homes and businesses from the Clean Heat Standard, and increased electric costs if my veto of the Renewable Energy Standard is not sustained. All on top of several years of inflation – the most regressive tax of all – driving up the cost of household essentials like food, clothing and services faster than paychecks are growing.

We must provide property tax relief now. This can't wait for another study before implementing cost containment strategies. We must also reform our education funding formula to ensure sustainable spending growth and equitable opportunities, and prioritize funding educational opportunities that improve outcomes by reinvesting in the strategies that best serve kids over maintaining the status quo.

We can achieve each of these goals this year if legislators will work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip B. Scott". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp