

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 19, 2019

Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Legislators:

Today, I am letting S.18, *an act relating to consumer justice enforcement* go into law without my signature.

I appreciate the Legislature's work to address the concerns I expressed regarding impacts on charitable organizations, community groups, Vermont's outdoor recreation sector, and the tech industry. With these changes, I can now support the consumer protection goals of the bill.

However, I cannot sign it because, in my view, it is technically flawed. Language which presumes the waiver of an individual's right to a jury trial or to bring a class action to be unconscionable would likely be preempted by the Federal Arbitration Act. I am concerned this may be misleading and confusing to consumers who think they have protections that are unenforceable due to federal law. For this reason, I am letting S.18 become law without my signature and hope the Legislature will correct this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

c: The Honorable Mitzi Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Tim Ashe, President Pro Tempore
The Honorable William MaGill, Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
The Honorable John Bloomer, Secretary of the Vermont Senate