

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 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 returning H.289, *An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard*, without my signature because of my objections described herein.

I don't believe there is any debate that H.289 will raise Vermonters' utility rates, likely by hundreds of millions of dollars. And while that in itself is reason enough to earn a veto, it is even more frustrating when you consider our Department of Public Service proposed to the Legislature a much stronger plan at a fraction of the cost.

Their proposal was crafted after 18 months of engagement with Vermonters about what *they* want their energy policy to look like. It would get us to where we all want to go faster, more affordably and more equitably than H.289.

For the reasons stated above, and factoring in all the other taxes, fees and higher costs the Legislature has passed over the last two years, I simply cannot allow this bill to go into law.

With a better alternative to this bill available, I sincerely hope that the Legislature will think about Vermonters and the cost of living, and sustain this veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip B. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp