

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 30, 2024

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Vermont State Senate
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, S.213, *An act relating to the regulation of wetlands, river corridor development, and dam safety*, will become law without my signature.

S.213 is another example of this Legislature's practice of passing complex and significant policies without appropriate consideration of whether they can even be implemented.

Throughout the session, the Agency of Natural Resources' subject matter experts repeatedly told legislators that the work required in the bill is not achievable in the timeline it sets.

Specifically, S.213 envisions a major new river corridor regulatory program – which will impact development on roughly 45,000 parcels and 209,000 acres statewide – will be up and running in three years. And this is just one of the four complex initiatives this bill directs – including expanded regulation of wetlands and dam safety oversight. With the program anticipated to have a sizeable impact on communities and landowners, this pace is reckless.

However, we also told legislators throughout the session, we support the goals and agree this work needs to be done. Therefore, this bill will become law without my signature, but you can expect us to come back in January and propose a sensible timeline that is actually achievable and does this work correctly for the people of Vermont.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip B. Scott". The signature is stylized and written over a large, faint watermark of the same signature.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp