

ACT 157 VEGI POLICY REVIEW

(H.868 - 2016)

PRESENTER LIST

Please note: The Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) has been charged by the General Assembly with reviewing several policy questions related to the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program (VEGI). Click [here](#) for statutory language. The review process will occur between July and December 2016, with a report due to the General Assembly by January 15, 2017. The Council will invite several people to provide insights and comments from various perspectives on each issue at multiple meetings during that period. A general invitation is also made to anyone interested in the policy review questions. If you would like to provide comments on one of these issues, please email fred.kenney@vermont.gov or call (802)777-8192. You may submit written comments any time to fred.kenney@vermont.gov. Please limit comments to the eight policy questions.

(Presenters listed alphabetically with date of presentation and issue addressed; list will be updated following each session.)

Cynthia Browning (July 28: Issue 4; [Presenter Document](#)): Member of Vermont House of Representatives from Arlington in Bennington County. Member of House Committee on Corrections and Institutions. Author of H.507, which was impetus for inclusion of Issue #4 in Section H.13 of Act 157. Executive Director of the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance. Member of: Arlington Selectboard, Arlington Zoning Board of Adjustment, Bennington Regional Transportation Advisory Committee. Member of the House: 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012; 2013-2014.

Cairn Cross (July 28: Issues 2 and 3; [Presenter Document](#)): Cairn Cross is a co-founder of FreshTracks Capital and serves as a Managing Director of the Fund. Cross presently serves on the boards of FreshTracks portfolio companies Vermont Teddy Bear, NativeEnergy, Faraday and Budnitz Bicycles. From 1996 to 2000 he owned and operated Cross Vermont Financial, a strategic and financial consultancy to Vermont banks and growth businesses. From 1996 to 1998, Cairn was the Assistant General Manager of Green Mountain Capital, L.P. From 1991 to 1996 he was a Vice President and Corporate Loan Officer for the Howard Bank, preceded by five years' service in various positions for Vermont National Bank including Commercial Loan Officer. Mr. Cross is also a Lecturer for the University of Vermont and Champlain College, focusing on business, entrepreneurship and venture capital.

Susan Davis (July 28: Issues 2 and 3; [Presenter Document](#)): Member of Vermont House of Representatives from Washington in Orange County. Member of House Committee on Corrections and Institutions. Author of H.646, which was impetus for inclusion of Issues #2 and 3 in Section H.13 of Act 157. Retired VSEA State Employee after 31 years of service in Information Technology. Trustee of the East Orange Cemetery Association and a Minister at the East Orange Church. Member of the House: 2007-2008, 2008-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014. Served on the House Commerce Committee (2007-2008); House Institutions and Corrections Committee (2009-2014); Legislative Information Technology Committee (2007-2012); NCSL Standing Committee Member of Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce

(2007-2012); Cochair of the Legislative Working Vermonter's Caucus (2009-2014); Member of the Safety Health Maintenance Committee.

Kirby Keeton (July 28: Issues 3, 4, 7 and 8; [Presenter Document](#)): Tax Policy Analyst, Vermont Department of Taxes. Providing policy analysis for Department for three years. Prior experience as a law clerk for the Superior Court of Vermont and a law clerk for the Office of Legislative Council. Kirby is a Vermont licensed attorney whose job at Tax consists mostly of interpreting tax law, reviewing tax policy, and reviewing and drafting proposed legislation.

John Kessler (July 28: Issues 4 and 7): Has served as counsel for the State of Vermont for over 25 years and as General Counsel for the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development since 1997, providing advice to the Agency Secretary and a diverse set of clients, including the Departments of Economic Development, Housing and Community Affairs, Tourism and Marketing, as well as the Division for Historic Preservation, *Vermont Life* magazine, the Vermont EB5 Regional Center for Immigrant Investment, the Downtown Development Board, the Vermont Economic Progress Council, the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, and the State's Chief Marketing Officer. From 1989 – 1997, John served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Vermont, acquiring extensive litigation experience in state and federal courts on environmental, constitutional and civil rights matters, as well as civil and criminal appeals.

Mark MacDonald (July 28: Issue 8): Member, Vermont Senate, of Williamstown, representing Orange County. Member Senate Committee on Finance, Committee on Natural Resources, Joint Energy Committee, and Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Author of amendment to H.868 that was impetus for inclusion of Issue #8 in Section H.13 of Act 157. Mark is a teacher and farmer. Member of: Williamstown Planning Commission, 1984-1994; Vermont Beef Producers Association; Chelsea Fish and Game Club; Orange County Farm Bureau; American Legion; Orange Southwest Teachers Association; Vietnam Veterans of America. He served in the U.S. Army, 1968-1970, with eighteen months of service in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. Member of the House: 1983-84 (seated July 19, 1983), 1985-86, 1987-88, 1989-90, 1991-92, 1993-94. Member of the Senate: 1996-97, 1997-98, 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016.

Christine Oliver (July 28: Issue 8; [Presenter Document](#)): Senior Director, Account Management at NFP Corporate Services, Inc., a national company providing consulting services to businesses for employee benefits, property & casualty, retirement, and individual insurance and wealth management solutions through licensed subsidiaries and affiliates. Previously, Deputy Commissioner of the Health Care Administration (2006-2010) – responsible for the regulation of health insurance and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and Vermont's Act 128 (the Catamount Health Plan). Also, the CEO of the Vermont Health CO-OP where we attempted to build a member owned and operated health insurance company.

Jean O'Sullivan (July 28: Issues 5 and 6): Member, Vermont House of Representatives, from Burlington. Member, House General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee. Public service includes three terms on the Burlington City Council, 2000 to 2005; four terms as Commissioner on the Burlington Electric Commission; and five terms as Vice Chair of the Burlington Employee Retirement Board. An independent businesswoman her entire life, she owned a discount beverage store and a small chain of candy stores in Vermont before becoming a financial consultant. She became affiliated with Merrill Lynch in 1999 and continued on with A. G. Edwards until establishing her own financial services company in 2000.

Brian Poulin (July 28: Issues 3, 4, 7 and 8): In Corporate Tax Division at Vermont Department of Taxes for five years, Brian's primary job is examination of VEGI claims. Prior to Tax, worked at National Life. Brian has passed all parts of the CPA, is Certified Internal Auditor, Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, and a Fellow, Life Management Institute.

Rob Stewart (July 28: Issue 6 - [Presenter Document](#), and 8 - [Presenter Document](#)): General Manager, SOH Wind Engineering, LLC located in Williston. SOH was a start-up applicant to the VEGI program in 2011.