

# VNRC Bulletin

Vermont Natural Resources Council

(802)223-2328

June 4, 1981

## CLEAN AIR ACTION ALERT!!

There will be an important public hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on Monday, June 29th, at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. Senator Robert Stafford, Chairman of the Committee, has called the Vermont meeting to consider proposals to revise and amend the Federal Clean Air Act. This is a great opportunity for Vermonters to help formulate one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation to be considered by Congress this year.

### THE BATTLE AHEAD

The Clean Air Act of 1970 is the cornerstone of our national air pollution program. It is designed to protect the health of our citizens and the quality of our environment. The Reagan Administration and some industry leaders would like to weaken the Act in order to reduce its costs to industry.

They have proposed a "cost benefit" approach to air pollution control which will weigh environmental and health benefits against industry profits.

They would also like to eliminate the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program, a key feature of the Act which protects the quality of clean air. If this provision is removed, the quality of Vermont's air could degenerate to the minimum standard set for the nation as a whole.

### SHOW YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN AIR

We need a large turnout at the June 29th hearing to show the Senate Committee that we care about clean air and that we are not turning our backs on environmental quality. If you wish to testify, please call Senator Stafford's Burlington office (951-6707). But please plan to attend even if you don't intend to speak.

### THE VERMONT CLEAN AIR COALITION

A coalition has been formed here in Vermont with the twin goals of educating Vermonters about the importance of clean air and demonstrating public support for a strong Clean Air Act. The Coalition, which includes the Vermont Natural Resources Council, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, the Vermont Lung Association, the Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters, Friends of the Earth and the Audubon Council, believes the Clean Air Act should be strengthened rather than weakened. It should place stricter controls on toxic pollutants such as asbestos, mercury and vinyl chloride, and it should regulate long-range transportation of sulfur dioxide and sulfuric acid (acid rain).

### NO AIR POLLUTION IN VERMONT??

Many Vermonters think that the Green Mountain State has no air pollution problems. While Vermont has relatively clean air, there are pockets, mostly around Burlington but also in several other communities, where there are serious problems with ozone, carbon monoxide and total suspended particulates.

Moreover, Vermont lies directly in the path of upper air flows which carry acid rain from power plants, smelters and other heavy industries in the Midwest.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Date: June 29, 1981

Time: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. (most testimony likely in evening).

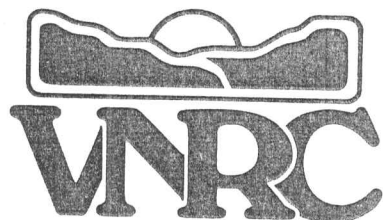
Place: Vermont Technical College, Randolph, Vermont (east of I-89 off exit #4)

VNRC would like to arrange as many carpools as possible to ensure a good turnout without contributing unnecessarily to air pollution. If you can share your car with others, please call VNRC (223-2328), so that we can give you the names of other VNRC members in your immediate area who wish to attend the hearings.

See this issue of the Vermont Environmental Report for an article entitled, "Clean Air Act Revisions: Fine-tuning or Tampering?" Please call the Vermont Natural Resources Council if you need more information about the hearings.

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