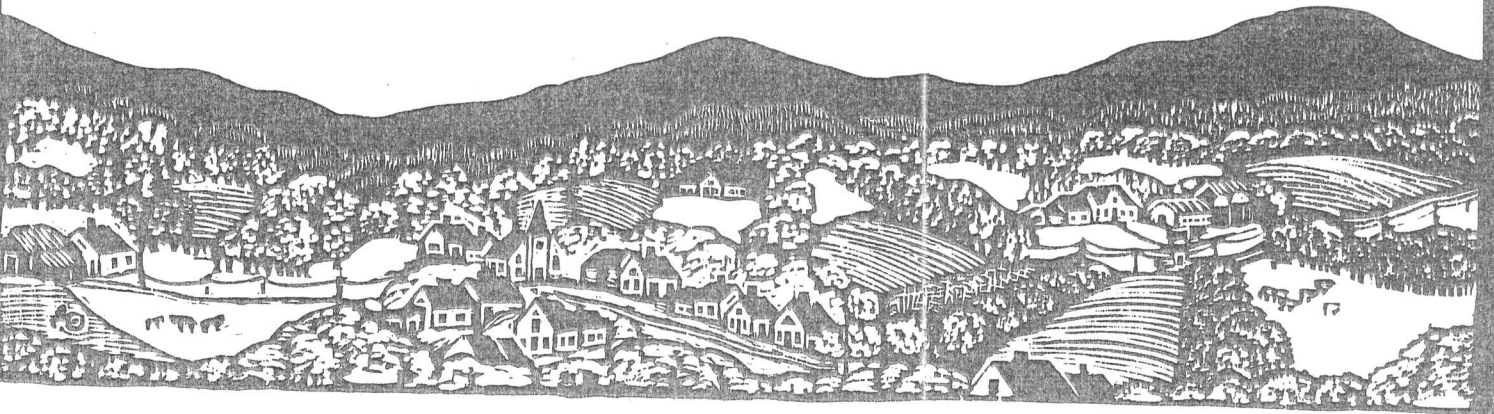


VNRC Bulletin



ARE YOU SITTING DOWN?

Good! Grab a pencil and paper or reach for your telephone. Your calls and letters are needed on a bill to reauthorize the national Clean Air Act!

Background: Last fall, Vermont Senator Robert Stafford, who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, engineered a 15-1 committee vote for a compromise bill that would retain most of the provisions of the present Clean Air Act while including major concessions to industrial polluters. National environmental groups endorsed the bill, despite its shortcomings, because they felt it was the best they could hope for from the lame-duck Senate. But the legislation never reached the floor of the Senate. Last Thursday (March 10th), Senator Stafford re-introduced the same committee bill. Here's why environmentalists are concerned:



The 1982 bill was a compromise measure that has lost the support of some of its original sponsors (including influential Senator Howard Baker). With less support from his committee, Senator Stafford may have to give away even more concessions when the bill gets to the Senate floor.



The 1982 bill requires only a 35% reduction in acid-rain-causing sulfur dioxide emissions (8 million tons over 12 years). The National Academy of Sciences, along with over 130 towns in conservative New Hampshire, have called for a 50% reduction. And the Canadian Government has pledged to cut its SO₂ emissions in half if the United States will follow suit. VNRC and other members of the Vermont Clean Air Coalition believe that at least a 10-million-ton reduction over 10 years is necessary to begin curbing the acid rain problem.



We can actually strengthen Senator Stafford's hand by letting him know that we're not satisfied with last year's compromise bill. A little heat from the home front will help the Senator show his committee (and Presidential hopefuls of both parties) that Vermont voters want a strong Clean Air Act. Stafford has also introduced an amendment calling for a 12-million-ton SO₂ reduction over 15 years. Tell the Senator that you support this provision and that you want the maximum possible reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions.

HOW TO REACH SENATOR STAFFORD

Call him collect at his offices in Burlington (951-6707) or Rutland (775-5446). Or write him at: Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

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TWO THINGS YOU CAN DO ABOUT ACID RAIN HERE IN VERMONT

- #1: Call or write your Vermont State Representative(s) and ask him/her to support JRH17. This resolution, introduced March 10th by Representative Curt McCormack of Rutland, calls on Congress and the President of the United States to "set a goal of decreasing by one-half by 1990 sulfur dioxide emissions from sources in the United States."
- #2: Make plans to attend a special evening at the Savoy Theater in Montpelier (see box, below).

WARNING: IF YOU ATTENDED THE 1982 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERMONT NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA. Last fall's Annual Meeting at Middlebury College included a lunch-time screening of Requiem or Recovery, a film produced by the National Film Board of Canada. This film and two others were recently condemned as "political propaganda" by the U.S. Justice Department.

All three films will be shown at the Savoy Theater in Montpelier on Wednesday and Thursday, March 23rd and 24th. VNRC is co-sponsoring the shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., featuring, Acid Rain, Requiem or Recovery, Acid from Heaven, and If You Love This Planet (a speech by Dr. Helen Caldicott of Physicians for Social Responsibility). Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.00 for children and seniors, and the Savoy will donate part of the proceeds to VNRC. Each film lasts 20-30 minutes, so you can take in all three in one sitting, and expose yourself to some of the most intelligent, thoughtful and persuasive "propaganda" this side of the Potomac.

P.S. To protect VNRC from charges of complicity with acid rain "propagandists," please burn this Bulletin!

Vermont Natural Resources Council
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