

October 17th, 2011

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE

Green Energy And Good Jobs For Vermonters

People of Vermont, Governor Peter Shumlin, and Other Interested Parties,

Vermont's leading voices for working families and the environment are united and speak with one voice when it comes to renewable in-state energy production. We agree that renewable energy production is necessary if we are to become energy independent, environmentally responsible, and carbon neutral. We also comprehend the building of these new energy facilities as a source of construction jobs for working people. However, the question becomes, will these jobs go to out-of-state corporations, will they go to irresponsible in-state companies, or will they provide livable wages, good benefits, and family sustainable employment for a generation of Vermonters?

It is our common assertion that the environmental and economic issues related to new energy development cannot be separated. Creating green energy without also supporting a strong local economy, or aggressively seeking job creation without addressing basic environmental issues undermines the future upon which our Green Mountain State is predicated. As Vermonters, as the leaders of organized labor, as environmentalists, we do not and cannot accept a disjunction between these two foundational beliefs. In brief, we need green energy, and we need good green jobs!

As the State of Vermont moves forward with its comprehensive energy plan we have an opportunity to not only guarantee Vermont's place of honor as a leader in the global struggle against climate change, but also as a leader in local green job creation. It will be by virtue of this multiplier effect, by virtue of breaking down the false dichotomy between environmental concerns and economic concerns that we will firmly establish the cultural shift necessary to achieve sustainability, self reliance, and to further the common good in Vermont and beyond. Once again, history calls for Vermont to lead the way. Will we heed this historic call as we so often have in our proud past? That is the question before us today.

Therefore, we, the undersigned leaders of Vermont's labor and environmental movements, with a combined membership in the tens-of-thousands, call on the Public Service Board to make local job creation, livable wages, and good benefits a basic, binding, and non-negotiable prerequisite prior to issuing a Certificate of Public Good for renewable energy projects. We further call on our Governor, Peter Shumlin, to continue to be a strong voice in support of hiring local, ideally union, for these green energy projects.

We look forward to working in partnership with socially responsible renewable energy developers, the Public Service Board, our Governor, and the State of Vermont towards a green energy and green economic future. However, let it be known that we will publically resist any and all new energy projects that do not address the needs of the People of Vermont, articulated as good jobs and a green environment.

Freedom and Unity,

Ben Johnson, President of the **Vermont AFL-CIO**

Jeff Potvin, President of the **Vermont Building and Construction Trades Council**

Michael Morelli, Business Agent for the **Vermont Iron Workers Local 7**

James Haslam, Director of the **Vermont Workers' Center**

Zak Griefen, Chairman of the **Vermont Sierra Club**

Steve Crowley, Energy Committee Chair of the **Vermont Sierra Club**

David Stember, Organizer for **350Vermont**

