

January 14, 2008

Dear Constituents:

As promised, here is my first weekly newsletter.

It is good to be back, and I feel much more like I belong. Due to the resignation of a member from Rutland Town and the appointment of his replacement, I am no longer the most junior member of the Legislature. I am working to be an effective member of the Democratic caucus. I am now helping to coordinate the production of articles from three committees for "Caucus Connections," a weekly newsletter distributed to Democrats to keep them informed about what is happening in each committee. I have also volunteered to assist in surveying members about how they plan to vote on certain bills. Finally, over the summer, I arranged the broadcast of a weekly television show by Speaker Symington on the cable channels in Barre and Montpelier.

I am signing up co-sponsors for two bills on which I am a lead sponsor. One would commit the State to increasing PILOT by a sum certain until we achieve full funding. We are asking for \$800,000 more per year, which would translate to about \$80,000 more each year for Montpelier. Finding more money will be difficult. As the economy slows, there seems to be no extra money anywhere. The bill also provides for a number of studies so that we can address inadequacies in and inequities among the various PILOT programs.

The second bill would levy a charge of 50 cents per tire on sale. The money would be used by solid waste districts to finance tire amnesty days providing citizens a free disposal option that is legal (versus throwing tires along roadsides or in rivers). The money would also be used to finance tire cleanups. My committee is set to discuss the bill after we finish with riparian buffers, and, I understand, the jurisdictional committee in the Senate is setting aside time to act on the bill as well.

By Friday, January 18, I expect to turn both bills in for publication and introduction.

In my Committee (Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources), we are working on a riparian buffer bill H.549. The bill would require building setbacks of at least 50 feet from all streams including intermittent streams and 100 feet from all lakes and ponds. The bill would also require the maintenance of natural vegetation within the buffer area.

So far, I am receiving a lot of comments on H.409 establishing a "Do Not Mail" registry. I expect to support this bill. I am also receiving some comments supporting H.309, the Vermont Hospital Security Plan supported by Dr. Deb Richter. PowerPoint slides from a talk she gave supporting the bill are posted on my web site (www.jonformontpelier.com).

I expect to oppose leasing the lottery. If it is appropriate to encourage increased gambling in Vermont, the State nets a greater return by continuing to own and manage the asset.

Please stay in touch.

Very truly yours,

Jon Anderson

JTA\alb

This message is intended to reflect my personal view of issues facing the Legislature. It is NOT intended to be a comprehensive or thorough discussion of any topic, just a few lines to stimulate thought. If you would like to be added to my subscriber list (or removed from it), please send an email to: janderson@vtlaw1.com. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do to assist you in dealing with Vermont Government.