



1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-828-1294 | anr.vermont.gov

Vermont Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Notice: Quorum Achieved via Email Communication

The Environmental Justice Advisory Council wishes to disclose that an email thread involving a quorum of Council members occurred regarding Senate Bill 325 addressed at today's meeting. While the communications were not intended to circumvent Vermont's Open Meeting Law, it was recognized that discussion regarding Council business had occurred outside of a warned public meeting.

Upon recognizing this concern, discussion by email ceased. The email communications have been preserved, and the Council will address the matter during a properly warned public meeting to ensure transparency and provide the public with an opportunity to observe the Council's discussion and deliberation on the record.

To the extent the prior email communications could be interpreted as creating a procedural concern under Vermont's Open Meeting Law, the Council will address the matter in open session in order to ensure compliance with the law and maintain public transparency.

Please find the discussion by email below.

From: [Victor Davila](#)
To: angela.lassojimenez@vermont.gov, [Watson, Britaney](#), [Martin, Charles](#), [Ramirez-Richer, Emma](#), [Birch, Juliet](#), [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#), [Sears, Mariana](#), [maryamshabbir08](#), [msears](#), [Stevens, Rachel](#), [Holschuh, Rich](#), [rich](#), [t.martin](#), [Martin, Trey](#), [Brownridge, Walter](#), [Walter Brownridge](#), [whiterivernrkd](#), [Davis, Xusana](#)
Subject: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 12:19:06
Attachments: [EJAC Letter.pdf](#)
[Sec 9.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, fellow EJC members:

I am reaching out with an urgent request regarding **a time-sensitive (tomorrow 5/19/2026) opportunity to resolve bureaucratic tension and secure additional funding for the EJC.**

As the Legislature discusses land use, housing, conservation, and public participation in Vermont (S.325), **we should encourage them to view any proposed community engagement planning funding as an opportunity to strengthen the work already underway** by the EJC under 3 V.S.A. chapter 72.

Attached is a letter that addresses this subject and includes a statement of support for our increased timeline. I would like to send this to the relevant parties and am requesting a formal vote (yes/no) to approve its submission.

I will follow up regularly to ensure we reach a quorum before tomorrows deadline.

For more detail please read the proposed letter.

Best,
Victor Davila

From: [Mariana Sears](#)
To: [victor](#)
Cc: [angela.lassojimenez@vermont.gov](#), [Watson, Britaney](#), [Martin, Charles](#), [Ramirez-Richer, Emma](#), [Birch, Juliet](#), [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#), [Sears, Mariana](#), [maryamshabbir08](#), [Stevens, Rachel](#), [Holschuh, Rich](#), [rich, t.martin](#), [Martin, Trey](#), [Brownridge, Walter](#), [Walter Brownridge](#), [whiterivernrkd](#), [Davis, Xusana](#)
Subject: Re: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 12:41:01

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I vote yes!

Thank you for your efforts, Victor, and everyone else who worked Friday and over the weekend to put together this letter! I am also available to read / testify / write to key legislators for support of our work! Just let me know the next steps.

Mariana

On Mon, 18 May 2026 at 12:18, Victor Davila <victor@slingshot.org> wrote:

Hello, fellow EJC members:

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Best,
Victor Davila

From: [Birch, Juliet](#)
To: [Watson, Britaney](#), [Byrne, Jennifer](#), [Sears, Mariana](#), [whiterivernrcd](#), [maryamshabbir08](#), [rich](#), [Rich Holschuh \(partner\)](#), [\(Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov\)](#), [t.martin](#), [Martin, Trey](#), [Davis, Xusana](#), [Abbasi, Maryam](#), [Davila, Victor](#), [Lawless, Matt](#), [mlawless](#), [Moran, Sean](#), [msears](#), [sean4shelburne@yahoo.com](#), [victor](#)
Cc: [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 12:52:19
Attachments: [EJAC Letter.pdf](#)
[Sec 9.pdf](#)

Hello, all!

I am forwarding this email from Victor to ensure it is received by the full Advisory Council. If you were included in the original email, please disregard.

Best,

Juliet Birch (she/her)
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-636-7499
Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov

From: Victor Davila <victor@slingshot.org>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 12:18 PM
To: angela.lassojimenez@vermont.gov <angela.lassojimenez@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; Martin, Charles <Charles.Martin@vermont.gov>; Ramirez-Richer, Emma <Emma.Ramirez-Richer@vermont.gov>; Birch, Juliet <Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov>; Raimundi, Karla <Karla.Raimundi@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Kim <Kim.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Sears, Mariana <Mariana.Sears@partner.vermont.gov>; [maryamshabbir08](mailto:maryamshabbir08@gmail.com) <maryamshabbir08@gmail.com>; [msears](mailto:msears@hungerfreevt.org) <msears@hungerfreevt.org>; Stevens, Rachel <Rachel.Stevens@vermont.gov>; Holschuh, Rich <rich.holschuh@partner.vermont.gov>; [rich](mailto:rich@atowi.org) <rich@atowi.org>; [t.martin](mailto:t.martin@vhcb.org) <t.martin@vhcb.org>; Martin, Trey <Trey.Martin@partner.vermont.gov>; Brownridge, Walter <Walter.Brownridge@partner.vermont.gov>; [Walter Brownridge](mailto:Walter Brownridge@gmail.com) <walterbrownridge@gmail.com>; [whiterivernrcd](mailto:whiterivernrcd@gmail.com) <whiterivernrcd@gmail.com>; Davis, Xusana <Xusana.Davis@vermont.gov>
Subject: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.

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For more detail please read the proposed letter.

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Victor Davila

From: [Rich Holschuh](#)
To: [Birch, Juliet](#)
Cc: [Watson, Britaney](#), [Byrne, Jennifer](#), [Sears, Mariana](#), [whiterivernrkd](#),
[maryamshabbir08](#), [Rich Holschuh \(partner\)](#),
[\(Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov\)](#), [t.martin](#), [Martin, Trey](#), [Davis, Xusana](#),
[Abbasi, Maryam](#), [Davila, Victor](#), [Lawless, Matt](#), [mlawless](#), [Moran, Sean](#), [msears](#),
[sean4shelburne@yahoo.com](#), [victor](#), [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 12:57:56

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Kwai - greetings all,

I have read through the draft letter and support submitting this through the proper channels. My vote is "yes" in this thread.

Thank you Victor for sharing this effort with us!

Wliwni - thank you,
Rich



Director, [The Atowi Project](#)
THPO, [Elnu Abenaki](#)
Wantastegok - Sokwakik, Wôbanakiak homelands
Ibitta Wiidaha - Only Be Goodhearted

On Mon, May 18, 2026 at 12:52 PM Birch, Juliet <Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov> wrote:
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Best,

Juliet Birch (she/her)
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-636-7499
Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov

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Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 12:18 PM
To: angela.lassojimenez@vermont.gov <angela.lassojimenez@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; Martin, Charles <Charles.Martin@vermont.gov>; Ramirez-Richer, Emma <Emma.Ramirez-Richer@vermont.gov>; Birch, Juliet <Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov>; Raimundi, Karla

<Karla.Raimundi@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Kim <Kim.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Sears, Mariana <Mariana.Sears@partner.vermont.gov>; maryamshabbir08 <maryamshabbir08@gmail.com>; msears <msears@hungerfreevt.org>; Stevens, Rachel <Rachel.Stevens@vermont.gov>; Holschuh, Rich <rich.holschuh@partner.vermont.gov>; rich <rich@atowi.org>; t.martin <t.martin@vhcb.org>; Martin, Trey <Trey.Martin@partner.vermont.gov>; Brownridge, Walter <Walter.Brownridge@partner.vermont.gov>; Walter Brownridge <walterbrownridge@gmail.com>; whiterivernrcd <whiterivernrcd@gmail.com>; Davis, Xusana <Xusana.Davis@vermont.gov>

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Best,
Victor Davila

From: [Matt Lawless](#)
To: [Birch, Juliet](#)
Cc: [Davis, Xusana](#), [Davila, Victor](#), [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 13:19:29

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I'm a YES on this.

But I'm not sure of your protocol. It can be hard to get adequate consent on short notice during session.

Matt Lawless
Shelburne Town Manager
802.985.5111
[Web](#), [LinkedIn](#)
he/him

From: Rich Holschuh <rich@atowi.org>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 12:57 PM
To: Birch, Juliet <Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov>
Cc: Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; Byrne, Jennifer <Jennifer.Byrne@partner.vermont.gov>; Sears, Mariana <Mariana.Sears@partner.vermont.gov>; whiterivernrkd <whiterivernrkd@gmail.com>; maryamshabbir08 <maryamshabbir08@gmail.com>; Rich Holschuh (partner) (Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov) <Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov>; t.martin <t.martin@vhcb.org>; Martin, Trey <Trey.Martin@partner.vermont.gov>; Davis, Xusana <Xusana.Davis@vermont.gov>; Abbasi, Maryam <Maryam.Abbasi@partner.vermont.gov>; Davila, Victor <Victor.Davila@partner.vermont.gov>; Lawless, Matt <Matt.Lawless@partner.vermont.gov>; Matt Lawless <mlawless@shelburnevt.org>; Moran, Sean <Sean.Moran@partner.vermont.gov>; msears <msears@hungerfreevt.org>; sean4shelburne@yahoo.com <sean4shelburne@yahoo.com>; victor <victor@slingshot.org>; Raimundi, Karla <Karla.Raimundi@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Kim <Kim.Barrett@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.

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Wantastegok - Sokwakik, Wôbanakiak homelands
Ibitta Wiidaha - Only Be Goodhearted

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Best,

Juliet Birch (she/her)

Environmental Justice Coordinator

Office of the Secretary

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

802-636-7499

Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov

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Best,

Victor Davila

From: [Jennifer Byrne](#)
To: [Birch, Juliet](#)
Cc: [Watson, Britaney](#), [Byrne, Jennifer](#), [Sears, Mariana](#), [maryamshabbir08](#), [rich](#), [Rich Holschuh \(partner\)](#), [\(Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov\)](#), [t.martin](#), [Martin, Trey](#), [Davis, Xusana](#), [Abbasi, Maryam](#), [Davila, Victor](#), [Lawless, Matt](#), [mlawless](#), [Moran, Sean](#), [msears](#), [sean4shelburne@yahoo.com](#), [victor](#), [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 13:22:28

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Yes from me too! This seems timely and appropriate given the status of our current work on the community engagement guidance.

Thank you,

Jennifer Byrne, District Manager

White River Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD)

Member, Vermont Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Member, Vermont Envirothon Steering Committee

[Request 30 Min Meeting](#)

[Request 1 Hour Meeting](#)

28 Farmvu Drive

White River Junction, VT 05001

862-432-3980 (cell)

802-369-3167

www.whiterivernrcd.org

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Environmental Justice Coordinator

Office of the Secretary

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Cc: [Byrne, Jennifer](#), [Sears, Mariana](#), [whiterivernrcd](#), [maryamshabbir08](#), [Rich Holschuh \(partner\)](#) (Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov), [t.martin](#), [Martin, Trey](#), [Davis, Xusana](#), [Abbasi, Maryam](#), [Davila, Victor](#), [Lawless, Matt](#), [mlawless](#), [Moran, Sean](#), [msears](#), sean4shelburne@yahoo.com, [victor](#), [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: RE: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 13:56:29
Attachments: ~WRD0000.jpg

I vote yes.

Thank you,

Britaney Watson | Digital Equity Officer
Vermont Community Broadband Board
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
802-522-8426
[Vermont Community Broadband Board](#)

Follow us: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#). Award-winning documentary "[Connected](#)."

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Cc: Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; Byrne, Jennifer <Jennifer.Byrne@partner.vermont.gov>; Sears, Mariana <Mariana.Sears@partner.vermont.gov>; whiterivernrcd <whiterivernrcd@gmail.com>; maryamshabbir08 <maryamshabbir08@gmail.com>; Rich Holschuh (partner) (Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov) <Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov>; t.martin <t.martin@vhcb.org>; Martin, Trey <Trey.Martin@partner.vermont.gov>; Davis, Xusana <Xusana.Davis@vermont.gov>; Abbasi, Maryam <Maryam.Abbasi@partner.vermont.gov>; Davila, Victor <Victor.Davila@partner.vermont.gov>; Lawless, Matt <Matt.Lawless@partner.vermont.gov>; mlawless <mlawless@shelburnevt.org>; Moran, Sean <Sean.Moran@partner.vermont.gov>; msears <msears@hungerfreevt.org>; sean4shelburne@yahoo.com; victor <victor@slingshot.org>; Raimundi, Karla <Karla.Raimundi@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Kim <Kim.Barrett@vermont.gov>
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[Abbasi, Maryam](#), [Davila, Victor](#), [Lawless, Matt](#), [mlawless](#), [Moran, Sean](#), [msears](#),
[sean4shelburne@yahoo.com](#), [victor](#)
Cc: [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 14:03:40

Hi, all!

I am just dropping in to let you know:

As of 2:04 PM, you have an affirmative vote from 6 of the 10 currently seated Advisory Council members

You have achieved quorum in this email thread. **Please be advised that this email thread will need to be made public via the EJ Resource Library!** The EJ Coordinators will do this.

For those who may be concerned, reaching quorum via this email thread will not put us over the annual public meeting cap for the Advisory Council in 2026. Based on our currently planned public meeting schedule, you should meet but not exceed the cap.

Best,

Juliet Birch (she/her)
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-636-7499
Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov

From: Birch, Juliet <Juliet.Birch@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; Byrne, Jennifer <Jennifer.Byrne@partner.vermont.gov>; Sears, Mariana <Mariana.Sears@partner.vermont.gov>; whiterivernrcd <whiterivernrcd@gmail.com>; maryamshabbir08 <maryamshabbir08@gmail.com>; rich <rich@atowi.org>; Rich Holschuh (partner) <Rich.Holschuh@partner.vermont.gov>; t.martin <t.martin@vhcb.org>; Martin, Trey <Trey.Martin@partner.vermont.gov>; Davis, Xusana <Xusana.Davis@vermont.gov>; Abbasi, Maryam <Maryam.Abbasi@partner.vermont.gov>; Davila, Victor <Victor.Davila@partner.vermont.gov>; Lawless, Matt <Matt.Lawless@partner.vermont.gov>; mlawless <mlawless@shelburnevt.org>; Moran, Sean <Sean.Moran@partner.vermont.gov>; msears <msears@hungerfreevt.org>; sean4shelburne@yahoo.com <sean4shelburne@yahoo.com>; victor <victor@slingshot.org>
Cc: Raimundi, Karla <Karla.Raimundi@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Kim <Kim.Barrett@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.

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Subject: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.

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Cc: [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: RE: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 14:31:22

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Trey Martin, VHCB
802 505-0986

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Cc: [Raimundi, Karla](#), [Barrett, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: [Urgent Request] A vote, sending a letter of support funding for the EJC.
Date: 18 May 2026, 15:30:27

Hi, all!

Because a quorum is now participating in this discussion, **I recommend we discontinue substantive discussion by email and continue this conversation in a properly warned public meeting.**

Open Meeting Law does not allow substantive discussion or decision-making by a quorum of members of a public body over email.

CREJU will publicly notify that this exchange has taken place and this will be added to the agenda of the next public meeting for transparency purposes.

Thank you,

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