

1/8/07

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Legislature is back in session and spent the first week in organizational matters, and hearing the Governor's Inaugural Address, which can be read at

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/journal/ja070104.htm>

The Governor tried to set a broad agenda and tone for the Legislature with his 'new Vermont Way forward' initiatives including: tax incentives programs on fuels to help reduce greenhouse gasses, a new Telecommunications Authority to partner with private enterprise to broaden cellular and PCS coverage (and amend permitting laws) ; a strategy of making environmental engineering Vermont's next "Captive" (a reference to Vermont's niche captive insurance industry).

Senate Committees were named Friday; House Committees were announced today. There have been a few changes – see

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/legdir/comms.cfm?Body=H>

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/legdir/comms.cfm?Body=S>

Committee agendas: The first full agendas were published today -

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/schedule/fullagenda.cfm>

Of interest:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Joint meetings/hearings with 4 Senate committees and 4 House committees

Natural Res. & Energy, Agriculture, Economic development, Housing & Gen. Affairs:

Wednesday, January 10, 2007 Public & Joint Hearings

9:00 AM - Noon **Urgency of Addressing Climate Change – Room 11**

Bill McKibben, Author and Professor, Middlebury College

Dr. Alan K. Betts, Pres., Vt. Academy of Science & Engineering

Thursday, January 11, 2007 Public & Joint Hearings

9:00-10:30 a.m. TBA

10:30-12:30 p.m. **The Urgency of Addressing Climate Change – Well of the house**

Amory Lovins, Rocky Mountain Institute, Colorado

35 House Bills and 30 Senate Bills have been introduced. Just one at this point concerning zoning:

H 22. which proposes to allow a municipality to bring actions for zoning violations as it does for violations of civil ordinances, but without adopting the underlying zoning bylaws as ordinances.

Please keep Friday afternoon 1pm-3:30pm Jan 19th open on your calendars for the VPA legislative Cracker Barrel - notice and agenda details to be sent out in the next day or so.

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