

**Statement Of Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),
On The Fiscal Year 2022 Energy & Water Appropriations Bill
Wednesday, August 4, 2021**

The Energy and Water Development bill the Committee considers today will accelerate our nation's transition to a clean energy economy and makes critical investments in the resilience of our communities. It supports much needed funding for environmental infrastructure improvements, upgrades to our energy grid, and deployment of renewable energy assets across the country. These investments are critical to the economic future of rural states like Vermont, which is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. I am also thankful that the bill once again increases funding for energy efficiency and affordability programs, particularly the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps so many families in Vermont and other northern states who struggle with high home heating prices during the cold winter months.

Of particular note, I want to thank Chair Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy for again recognizing the significant impact of the Northern Border Regional Commission. The Commission helps towns and cities across Vermont and New Hampshire, Maine and New York complete a wide range of projects that meet community needs – from strengthening the forest economy to deploying broadband. This Committee's continued investment in the Regional Commission, which is in turn able to leverage outside dollars to support these projects, is welcomed and appreciated on the ground in these rural corners of the Northeast.

Thank you again, Senators Feinstein and Kennedy, for your work, and that of your staffs, on this important bill.

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