

## POWER ALLEY - HOW THEY VOTED

### SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

#### THE BILL - H. 661

An act relating to fiscal 2016 budget adjustments: For fiscal 2015, the state budget consisted of \$2.27 billion of state dollars, exclusive of federal dollars. State dollars are those that come out of the pockets of Vermonters and our visitors and include general, transportation, special, health care, tobacco and fish and wildlife funds. For the fiscal 2016 budget “as passed” (Act 58) by the legislature last session, such spending was increased to \$2.36 billion, or 3.8 percent. The entire Committee voted in favor of Act 58 except for Senator Snelling who was absent. On the Senate floor, Minority Leader Benning opposed Act 58 while Majority Leader Baruth supported the bill.

Now H.611 is before the legislature to make mid-year budget adjustments. In substantial agreement with the Governor’s recommendations and the House, the Senate proposes to spend \$28.4 million more in state dollars in 2016 for a total increase over fiscal 2015 of \$114.7 million or 5.05 percent. As one can see, this proposal to increase 2016 spending has bi-partisan support among Committee members, all of whom voted for the increase. Only four Senators opposed H.661 – Benning, Collamore, Degree and Mullin.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/JOURNAL/sj160210.pdf> (see page 119)

[http://www.campaignforvermont.org/fy\\_2016\\_baa\\_report](http://www.campaignforvermont.org/fy_2016_baa_report) (scroll to bottom for totals)

Senator	How They Voted
Sen. Jane Kitchel – Caledonia District - Democrat	Yes
Sen. Alice Nitka – Windsor District - Democrat	Yes
Sen. Dick McCormack – Windsor District - Democrat	Yes
Sen. Dick Sears Jr. – Bennington District - Democrat	Yes
Sen. Diane Snelling – Chittenden District - Republican	Yes
Sen. Robert Starr – Essex-Orleans District - Democrat	Yes
Sen. John Campbell – Windsor District - Democrat	Yes

Contact: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/people/all/2016/Senate>