

Richard Rubin

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I have lived on East Hill Road in Plainfield for more than 50 years and have been a Co-op member since 1973. I can be reached by mail at 3496 East Hill Road, Plainfield, VT 05667 or by phone at 454-8542. My email is richardirubin@gmail.com.

I am 78 years old and have lived in Plainfield since I moved to Vermont in 1972. I was born and raised in the Boston area, attended Harvard College, and then the University of Pennsylvania Law School. After graduating law school in 1970, I practiced law in Boston, representing low-income clients for two years before moving to Vermont. I have practiced law in Central Vermont since 1972, and in Barre since 1977. My law firm—Rubin, Kidney, Myer & Vincent—has been in downtown Barre since 1982. We handle a wide variety of cases, and we are primarily trial lawyers. We also have been the public defenders for Washington County for many years.

I am a member of the Board of VLITE, a non-profit organization that receives over \$1 million annually from the shares we own in VELCO, Vermont's Electric Transmission Utility. We use these funds to award grants to groups and projects that further the goals of Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan, with an emphasis on the needs of low-income Vermonters.

I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the VAJ, an organization of Vermont trial lawyers, as well as on the Board of the Dragon Dance Theatre and Upper Valley Arts. I am a former board member of Vermont Legal Aid and served for five years on the Twinfield School Board.

I am married to Jayne Israel and have three grown children, two of whom live in Central Vermont. We also have 6 grandchildren.

Several years ago, I was involved with my brother Mathew Rubin and John Warshow in the development of the Wrightsville and Winooski 8 (East Montpelier) hydroelectric facilities.

I enjoy hiking, gardening, golf, and generally being outside with my family.

I have been a Co-op board member for several terms and have enjoyed my experience on the Board a great deal. I enjoy working with my fellow board members and management and would like to serve another term. I believe in cooperatives and cooperative principles, and I am committed to keeping our co-op strong. My experience as an attorney brings a critical perspective to the board and helps me ask the hard questions.

I am particularly proud that our Co-op obtains its energy from renewable sources such as the Coventry landfill methane generation plant, Hydro Quebec, and the Sheffield wind farm.

Washington Electric Co-op has been able to rid itself from dependence on Vermont Yankee and the use of fossil fuel to generate our energy. Much of our power is also produced inside

Vermont. Our Co-op's example is an important one to our policy makers and to other utilities as we move deeper into the twenty first century. It was exciting to see the Sheffield wind project come online. We received a \$1 million grant through Bernie Sanders' efforts and invested in this project several years ago. It took a long time, but as a result, we now have a 20-year contract for energy from that project at very favorable rates.

Our landfill gas-generation plant in Coventry was also an excellent investment. We can produce renewable electricity from garbage at a very favorable cost.

I also continue to be proud of the efforts of our Community Fund, which now donates more than \$45,000 each year to non-profit groups in our service area, all from members turning back to the fund their annual patronage refunds. I urge all members to sign up and contribute. It's a good way to help our neighbors.

In addition to becoming 100% renewable, we have redone our office building using the best and greenest building techniques, providing an efficient and comfortable working environment for many years to come.

I am especially proud of our staff and the work they do for us in good weather and bad. The recent storms and outages have been hard, and they are likely to be a continuing problem with the changing climate. I am committed to reliability and to ensuring that our line crews are valued and fairly paid for the work they do. It's hard to see them out at night in the snow and mud restoring our power in freezing conditions.

I love Louis Porter and believe that participating in his selection was one of the best things I have done on the Board. He's great. He has deep roots in central Vermont, loves the Co-op and the outdoors, relates well to the staff and the members, and is really smart and committed. Steve Knowlton is our new Board President replacing Barry Bernstein who had been our leader forever. Steve is clear-eyed and a strong leader for our Board. We're lucky to have him.

We are a small business with high rates largely due to our rural nature and lack of large commercial and industrial customers. We run a tight ship but are continually faced with pressure on our rates outside our control. We are also faced with adapting to a new energy future in which more of our members are using solar energy and installing energy efficient heat pumps which will save fossil fuel but burn more electricity. We need to be nimble and creative to adapt what we do to meet our members' needs and to fulfill our mission.

I am confident the Co-op can continue to be a leader in both the energy arena and as a model for how locally owned and non-profit cooperative enterprises can provide our essential services while keeping our capital and "profits" in our local communities. Green Mountain Power is owned by a Canadian company and pays its management very high salaries. Its profit and return on its investments leave the state and the country as well. This is not a model for the delivery of energy that I support.

I am committed to a Co-op that is a leader in environmental stewardship based on non-profit cooperative principles which operates reliably and keeps our electricity for all our members.