

From: [Hooker, Ruth](#)
To: [Matthew Hardin](#); [brady](#)
Cc: [Groff, David](#); [Rowntree, Laura](#); [Rose, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Response to VT Federation of Sportsmen"s Clubs" Public Records Request
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 12:51:02 PM
Attachments: [2024-06-20 PRA Response to Bradley.pdf](#)

The attached document is being sent at the request of Assistant Attorney General David Groff.

Ruth A. Hooker
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STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

June 20, 2024

Chris Bradley
c/o Attorneys Brady Toensing and Matthew Hardin
Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
S Main Street
Northfield, VT 05663

Via email to: matthewhardin@gmail.com; brady@digtoe.com

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Bradley:

I write in response to your Public Records Act request dated June 6, 2024, in which you requested:

the total cost of defending the State against [the current federal lawsuit brought by the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs challenging the constitutionality of 13 V.S.A. § 4019a and 13 V.S.A. § 4021], starting from 7/1/2023, including the cost of time spent by state employees, costs associated with outside legal firms / consultants, costs associated with hired experts; in short, all costs related to this defense to date.

On June 11, 2024, I notified you that the Attorney General's Office ("AGO") would need to invoke a 10-day extension to respond to your request, consistent with 1 V.S.A. § 318(b)(5).

We have completed our analysis of your request and have not identified any records that would be subject to disclosure. First, insofar as your request seeks information rather than records, it is not an appropriate request under the Vermont Public Records Act. Second, to the extent your request seeks existing documents or other records reflecting the requested information, those documents would be exempt from disclosure under 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(14), exempting records that are "relevant to litigation" within the meaning of that section. *See Wesco, Inc. v. Sorrell*, 2004 VT 102, ¶¶ 16-17 (exemption covers all documents that are "related to" or "pertinent to" ongoing litigation against public agency, whether documents are discoverable in that litigation or not).

To the extent you feel that any records have been withheld in error, you may appeal to the Deputy Attorney General, Robert McDougall, at: Attorney General's Office, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609 or AGO.PublicRecordsRequests@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ David Groff

David Groff
Assistant Attorney General