My name is Gretta Stack and I am running to be re-elected onto the SGA Committee on the Environment. I would like to continue being a part of this committee because I am passionate about the environment and want to further UVM’s sustainability practices. Global warming is one of the most important issues of our time and my hope is to help make UVM more resilient to climate change.

I consider myself a strong student leader because I am passionate, committed, enthusiastic, caring, open-minded, honest, and organized. Certain past experiences have helped to me develop these leadership qualities. I have been a captain for my high school track and soccer teams, as well as teaching young students about renewable energy and its importance through Teens Reaching Youth (TRY) for the Environment. I also started a summer camp for kids called “Cow Camp” where campers learned the responsibilities involved in dairy farming and how to show animals at local fairs.

I am qualified for this position because as a citizen, I am active in politics, especially pertaining to the environment. I have given presentations at my town meetings, specifically against the support of Tar Sands Oil. In addition, I have participated in various marches and lobby days, as well as attending Vermont Pension Investment Committee (VPIC) meetings encouraging the state to divest from fossil fuels. In my community, I have designed and built a compost system for my high school. These experiences have taught me skills in communication, leadership, and in taking initiative that I know will be beneficial to SGA and the Committee on the Environment.

While UVM is one of the top “green schools”, we have a lot of work to do. For example, while we compost, many of the buildings on campus do not have compost bins so the only option is to throw food in the trash. UVM also continues to support and use TD Bank which gives money to the fossil fuel industry which I believe does not represent the true values of the student body. I hope to work towards making change in this area and encouraging the university to start divesting from fossil fuels in general. And lastly, the school is on its way to becoming carbon neutral by 2050, but we will only be successful if we stay on track with step by step goals along the way and reduce our emissions yearly. If I am re-elected to become a senator, I will address these topics and listen to campus concerns voiced by students by staying open and approachable. I will ensure your concerns are taken to action. The UVM community is a group of individuals, each from a diverse background. As a member of the SGA, I will commit to taking into account all existing perspectives to the best of my ability.