Written Testimony Related to the Governor's 2024 Budget Provided by Hilary Solomon, Middletown Springs, VT (802) 558-3515, hilarysolomon92@gmail.com

Please increase base funding for the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Council for a total base appropriation of \$3,000,000 to support Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts.

Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts are rooted in local communities and are trusted and effective conservation service providers. Conservation Districts are on the ground, hosting meetings, making phone calls, walking with landowners to plan a project, and making sure work gets scheduled. We help to make the connections and implement the plans.

Conservation Districts work with many constituents every day. We are involved in water quality and conservation projects on many of Vermont's important landscape features including agricultural lands, forest lands, developed lands, lakes and ponds, wetlands, rivers and streams. We advocate for landowners and help landowners solve environmental problems using flexible and practical solutions.

Please support Vermont's Conservation Districts in the 2024 budget!