



## **VERMONT HOUSING and CONSERVATION COALITION**

April 17, 2023

Dear Senator Kitchel and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

We hope that this year will be the year to bring VHCB funding in alignment with the property transfer tax share—not because we have “withstood” this language for over a decade, but because **Vermont needs investments that pay out dividends that will impact future generations. VHCB is that investment.**

Over 35 years, here are the results:

- 15,000 affordable homes – rental and homeownership
- 789 farms protected
- 275,699 acres of working forests, natural areas, and recreational lands
- 900 businesses enrolled in its Farm & Forest Viability Program
- Over 600 AmeriCorps members have served through VHCB AmeriCorps

**It is clear: VHCB delivers for Vermonters and Vermont’s communities.**

With our struggling economy, the housing crisis, and property pressures, we need VHCB to be running at its highest and most effective level.

And as the community organizations that are the engines partially behind VHCB’s success, we know that now is the time to not slow down, but push harder: to invest in our rural communities, our working landscape, in permanent affordability, climate resilience, biodiversity, water quality, and outdoor rec.

Now is the time to support VHCB’s base funding at the PTT formula.

Thank you,

Abby White, Vermont Land Trust  
Lauren Oates, The Nature Conservancy  
Chris Donnelly, Champlain Housing Trust  
Molly Dugan, Cathedral Square

*Co-chairs of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Coalition*

