

February 9, 2024

Representative Amy Sheldon, Chair
House Committee on Environment & Energy
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

FY 25 Appropriation for regional planning commissions

Dear Chair Sheldon:

Thank you for your past support in the work we do on behalf of the state and our municipalities related to planning, energy, climate change and permitting.

The House Appropriations Committee will be seeking your input and priorities for developing the FY 25 budget and I wanted to reach out to you and ask for your support in that request.

Regional planning commissions have been called upon to do more and more for the state and our communities. The requests for our expertise cover a wider number of issues and have become more complex and are linked to many issues simultaneously. This is occurring at a time when municipal capacity has been under strain due to the pandemic, ARPA, staff retirements and an overwhelming demand placed on them.

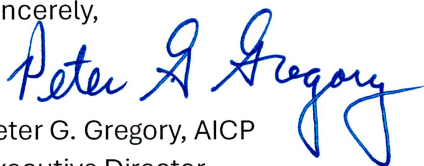
If Vermont is going to achieve its goals in housing development, natural resource protection, climate mitigation, permit reform, economic development among others, additional resources must be available.

For FY 25, **we ask for your support for full funding under the statutory formula in Title 24.** The Administration has asked for a very modest 3% increase in our funding. While appreciated, this increase will not address the need as described above.

In addition, **we ask for your support for a \$5 million dollar appropriation for brownfields cleanup.** We have adequate resources to conduct assessments based on your support for this over the last few years, now there is a lack of money to cleanup properties...the other half of the redevelopment equation.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any clarification on our request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director

William Emmons, III, Chair ~ Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
128 King Farm Rd. Woodstock, VT 05091 ~ 802-457-3188 ~ trorc.org