



Date: Feb 28, 2023
To: The House and Senate Appropriations Committee
From: Peggy and Ken Farabaugh, owners of Vermont Woods Studios Furniture, 538 Huckle Hill Road, Vernon VT 05354, peggy@vermontwoodsstudios.com, 802-275-5174
Subject: **Please support the Governor's appropriation of \$4 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and make the full \$4 million base funding**

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Committee Members,

Thank you for your service! We are writing to ask for your support of the Governor's appropriation of \$4 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and make the full \$4 million base funding.

We were recipients of a \$100,000 grant 10 years ago and it has made all the difference. Our company is now in its 18 year of operation. We've had to weather many storms, including the current recession, but Vermonters stick together when times are tough and we're still here because of that.

We see Vermont as the fine furniture capital of America. Our sector needs your help to make that a reality that the whole nation can see. Vermont has over 1000 furniture companies plus 2000 independent woodworkers operating out of small shops, barns and garages. Together we produce a diverse collection of wood furniture for every taste and budget. We have earned a world-wide reputation for integrity, authenticity and green design. But, like others under the working landscape umbrella, we do need consistent support from Montpelier to stay strong in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Thank you again for your service and your support to appropriate \$4 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and make the full \$4 million base funding.