



P.O. Box 311 Burlington, VT 05402

Sen. Ruth Hardy, Chair SGOC
Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky
Sen. Alison Clarkson
Sen. Becca White
Sen. Robert Norris
Sen. Anne Watson

Dear Senator Hardy
and Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, an organization dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness of Irish and Irish-American culture in Burlington, I am writing to express our strong support for the swift passage of H.667, the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission bill, which recently passed the House and has been referred to your esteemed committee.

Established in 1995, the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival embodies the founding principle of celebrating Irish and Irish-American culture, with its focus around St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. Our festival sponsors a core of events during the week closest to St. Patrick's Day, with the Festival Ceili as its signature event, while also co-sponsoring or offering a promotional focus for other events with a common purpose. To achieve our mission, we work closely with local musicians, dancers, writers, historians, and artists, along with the organizations and venues that support these Irish traditions.

The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission bill presents a remarkable opportunity to further strengthen the cultural and economic ties between Vermont and Ireland, aligning closely with the mission and values of our festival. By establishing a commission comprised of ten Vermonters, the bill aims to explore and facilitate avenues for collaboration between Vermont and Ireland, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships that can enrich both our economies and our communities.

As advocates for the preservation and promotion of Irish culture in Vermont, we believe that initiatives such as this trade commission are essential in promoting cross-cultural understanding and fostering greater cooperation between our two regions. Moreover, the economic benefits that may arise from increased trade and investment between Vermont and Ireland are significant and cannot be overlooked.

Burlington Irish Heritage Festival is an IRS registered 501(c)3 - your gift may be tax-deductible.



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We urge you to give careful consideration to H.667 and to support its passage through your committee. By doing so, you will not only help to advance the economic interests of our state but also contribute to the deepening of the cultural bonds that unite Vermont and Ireland.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your favorable action on H.667.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth O'Dowd".

Elizabeth O'Dowd, Secretary

Burlington Irish Heritage Festival
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