



**Agency of Commerce and Community Development**  
National Life Building – North, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
One National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501  
[accd.vermont.gov](http://accd.vermont.gov)

[phone] 802-828-3211  
[fax] 802-828-3383

Lawrence Miller Testimony on Agency Legislative Priorities 2014  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
December 5, 2013

Chairman Botzow, Members of the Committee,

First, because workforce availability and preparedness are the biggest issues I hear from businesses, we look forward to working with the committee on the results of the Workforce Development Work Group. Continuing to strengthen our lifelong learning system, from pre-school through continuing education, with increased linkages between education and employers is critical for achieving our long-term goals.

We also look forward to working with the committee on some work in process, including completing the good work that has started on issues related to workers compensation and independent contractors, as well as the Legacy Insurance Management Act.

We are close to a major telecommunication milestone: achieving the state's current broadband goals, with substantial progress on cellular coverage over the last several years as well. It is time for a discussion of whether or not the state should set new goals, and for a discussion of the future mission of the VTA.

Following up on the work last year Commissioner Mackay has led a broad discussion of stakeholder on improvements to growth center designations. The results of this process suggest some changes to incentives and regulatory approaches would be effective in helping to concentrated development where Vermonter's want it, make sure our working landscape is available for future needs, and support long term flood resiliency. In related areas we expect discussion about other approaches to transportation improvement requirements in the Act 250 process, briefly "fair-share" versus "last one in," and some discussion about rural enterprises. These are complex issues but there is a great deal of consensus on some specific proposals.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission recently released new General Solicitation rules. While the Administration does not have a specific legislative proposal I do think the Committee should consider scheduling testimony on the emergence of online equity and loan crowd funding opportunities, and develop a full understanding of how Vermont may wish to adopt laws or rules to help Vermont businesses take best advantage of these funding sources with appropriate protections for Vermont investors.

As you know, we have been fully engaged in the development of a statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. While the finished product will not be ready until June, we look forward to briefing the Committee on the results of the work so far, and including the members in the development of the CEDS.

Finally, the Department of Tourism and Marketing has been selected to participate in the next phase of implementing Results Based Accountability. While we understand this work with primarily be with the Appropriation Committee we look forward to including this committee in our development of the metrics for future budgeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence Miller".

