

Rebecca Buck

From: Anne Larivee <alarivee1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 3:37 PM
To: Governorvt@state.vt.us
Cc: Theresa Utton; Rebecca Buck; Albert Pearce; tlidstone@vitlink.org
Subject: Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT)
Attachments: VITscan.jpeg; VITscan2.jpeg

Good Afternoon,

It has come to our attention that VIT will not receive any funds in Vermont's FY 16 budget. My husband and I have benefited greatly from VIT and their services. Our letters of support for them are attached.

Thank you for your time and have a great day.

Sincerely,
Mark and Anne Larivee
731 Berkshire Center Road
Enosburg Falls, VT 05450
(802) 933-2509
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March 7, 2015

Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavillon
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Shumlin,

It was brought to my attention today at my code update class in St. Alban's Vermont Interactive Technologies site that your budget has recommended \$0 in funding for VIT. I have utilized VIT sites for many reasons: electrical code update classes, plumbing code update classes and fire alarm update classes to name a few. Last year 1,550 people in Vermont used five VIT sites to access plumbing update courses alone, with an average of 57 people per class.

I returned to college in my thirties through Johnson State College's EDP program and Community College of Vermont and frequently used VIT sites. I was married, with two children and working full time. VIT sites enabled me to complete my degree by taking courses in St. Albans instead of traveling to Johnson and other parts of the state. I don't know if I could have completed my degree without the aid of VIT.

I am sure balancing a budget and deciding where to make cuts must seem an impossible task. This is an area in the budget that would affect thousands of people. People who are trying to keep their jobs by attending licensing courses or better themselves by earning a degree or a certification. This in turn could adversely affect the economy and therefore impact even more lives.

Please reconsider your decision and fund Vermont Interactive Technologies. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Larivee

cc: House Appropriations Committee: Chair Mitzi Johnson & Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee: Chair Jane Kitchel & Committee
Justin Johnson, Secretary of Administration
Representative Albert Pearce
Tara Lidstone, VIT Executive Director

March 14, 2015

Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Shumlin,

It was recently brought up at our town meeting that your budget has recommended \$0 in funding for Vermont Interactive Technologies. I found this to be very distressing news.

I was a stay at home mom to our two sons until the youngest was age 5 and entering kindergarten. The librarian position at Berkshire Elementary School had become available. I was given the job under the condition that I needed to earn my certification in library and information science. I began taking the necessary courses at University of Vermont. I took the six courses needed but also had to take a course in psychology and children's literature. I live in the beautiful town of Berkshire, about 1 mile from the Canadian border in the upper west hand corner of Vermont. The children's lit. course was being offered in Southern Vermont, which would have been over a two hour drive for me – one way. Luckily the course was also being offered via the VIT site in St. Albans, about a 35 minute drive for me.

When I returned to college for my certification, I was 40 years old and had two children, ages 5 and 9. My husband worked many hours at his job and so I was in charge of child care most of the time. I could not have traveled 2 hours to take a class. Without the VIT site in St. Albans I would not have been able to keep my job.

Because Vermont is a mainly rural state, the VIT sites are vitally important. In this age of technology you might think that the VIT sites are becoming obsolete. This might be a popular assumption but it's not a true one. At the VIT site I had classmates, people to interact and collaborate with. One of the classes I needed for my certification, I took online through the University of Phoenix. I earned an A+ for that course but the learning I garnered was not the quality of learning that I received through the UVM and VIT sponsored courses.

I can appreciate that your job is a tough one and working with budgets is a no-win situation, but I implore you to reconsider your decision to not fund Vermont Interactive Technologies. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Anne M.E. Larivee

cc: House Appropriations Committee: Chair Mitzi Johnson & Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee: Chair Jane Kitchel & Committee
Justin Johnson, Secretary of Administration
Representative Albert Pearce
Tara Lidstone, VIT Executive Director