



ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.

February 19, 2024

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
House Committee on Environment and Energy

Dear Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of our member businesses and businesses in our region to express our strong support for the tri-partisan housing proposals that have been introduced in H.719 and S.311.

The impact of the current housing shortage cannot be overstated. The lack of available and affordable housing affects our ability to attract new individuals and families to our region and serves as a substantial obstacle to business development and economic growth. The shortage of affordable housing is consistently identified by the businesses in our region as one of the top issues impacting their ability to attract and retain employees for every level of their workforce.

The ACEDC board, representing businesses across all sectors, business sizes, and business stages, recognizes the critical importance of taking action now to address the housing deficit. The regulatory and municipal zoning changes, tax proposals, funding, and other proposals, as included in H.719 and S.311 would make it easier, less expensive, and faster for the private and public sectors to build more housing and more affordable housing, while continuing to avoid sprawl or provide incentives for development outside of designated areas.

These bills represent a responsible and sustainable approach to increased housing development that will work to meet Vermont's unprecedented housing supply challenges while continuing to maintain the stewardship to environmental protection that we all prioritize.

We urge you to support these important initiatives when they reach your respective Committees and work to ensure final passage during this legislative session. To encourage the development of more housing, which will help ensure the overall well-being of our communities, and foster responsible economic growth, action is needed now.

Thank you for considering the needs of all Vermonters.

Sincerely,

Jason Larocque, Otter Creek Engineering
ACEDC President

Gina Larrow, Co-operative Insurance Companies
ACEDC Vice President/Treasurer



David Castle, Mechanical Advantage
ACEDC Secretary



Christopher Lapierre, National Bank of Middlebury
ACEDC At-Large Officer



Ryan Bartlett, Collins Aerospace



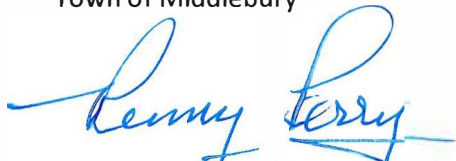
Mark Foster, Foster Brothers Farm &
VT Natural Ag Products



Richard McKerr, Representing the
Town of Middlebury



Robert Ortmyer, Porter Medical Center/
UVM Health Network



Renny Perry, City of Vergennes/Addison
County Chamber of Commerce



Susan P. Ritter, Middlebury College



Darcy Tarte, Board Member



Bill Townsend, J.P. Carrara & Sons/VT Industrial Parks

CC:

Phil Scott, Governor

Jill Krowinski, Speaker of the House

Phil Baruth, President Pro Tempore

Addison County Delegation

ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Loan programs are made possible by USDA/Rural Development. ACEDC is an equal opportunity service provider and lender, with all services and funds available on a non-discriminatory basis.