

To whom it May Concern,

We are writing in support of keeping the tax-exempt status for Greek Life properties. Our son is a student at the University of Vermont and the President of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. His name is Joseph Pappas. We implore whoever has it in their power; please help these societies from being closed down by stopping the repeal of this status.

This fraternity has been instrumental in our son's academic and personal growth, both as a leader and a citizen. I don't think people realize what this fraternity (and other societies) does:

- They are self-sufficient and maintain the house and grounds by themselves. No housekeeping or residential services are used. They manage their own budget for food, utilities and expenses and enforce rules and fines on their members for neglecting tasks as simple as washing dishes.
- They maintain this historic property in Burlington as students with little time or money. They are PROUD of their house and it's historic history.
- They are an agricultural fraternity committed to the environment and are drawn to UVM from all over the country for this reason but also have business and engineering majors in their brotherhood.
- They are committed to public service in numerous ways. Here are a few:
- They maintain the Cochran Family Ski area year round and help to run it to keep it affordable for families.
- They raise money for cancer, including hosting a gourmet dinner yearly for the public.
- They are committed to their academic success and GPAs and help each other in the house.
- They volunteer for their neighbors year round. In their own words, "We are a house dedicated to volunteering for our neighbors year round. We help many families who live on our street with fall cleanups, snow shoveling in the winter, and gardening projects in the spring. We have had a good relationship with Ruggles House, an elderly home three doors down from us, for many years now. We send crews of brothers over multiple times a year to help them turn their compost, till their soil, and weed their flower beds that are a part of their extensive and intricate garden network."

In addition, we can tell you from experience, having TRIPLET sons in three colleges in three states, Greek life and housing is an exemplary way for a student to integrate him or herself into the university community by being part of a "family" and have a purpose. The advice and guidance from older alumni and advisors is invaluable.

As to the image of these societies as "party" houses, we all know that students are equally participating in all kinds of recreation all over campus. I would argue that members of the same house keep an eye out for each and often keep each other "in check". They are always concerned about their chapter's reputation.

It is completely unfair to compare the small amount of property tax in a typical rental situation to the approximate \$80,000 twenty AGR students would have to split. To make matters worse this is AGR's most successful recruitment year in decades.

And last, but most important, if this comes to pass where will all of these students go in the fall? It is late to find apartment housing or university housing. School is coming to a close.

Does the bill provide for some kind of plan to place these students if they are displaced? My son will be entering his senior year after three successful years at UVM. Will that be in jeopardy if he has nowhere to live?

Thank you for attention to this matter,

William and Maria Pappas