

We, the undersigned, are the officers of House Corporation of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, and as such, we are the landladies of our 164-year-old house, a designated historic site. We are a non-profit organization, deriving the majority of our revenue for maintenance from the rent paid to us by the chapter. With the exception of a small savings for the inevitable plumbing or electrical issues associated with such an old building, we run on a shoe-string budget carefully and thoughtfully allocated each year. We are writing to request that you not repeal the tax exemption for fraternities and sororities for the reasons cited below.

→ It is likely that the projected tax burden of \$17,000 would not be sustainable beyond a couple of years, and the house would eventually be sold. If history repeats itself, the house would be purchased by UVM or Champlain, and once again become tax exempt.

→The comparison drawn to students who live in apartments is an inaccurate one.

- Apartments are for-profit enterprises. Fraternity and sorority houses/house corporations are non-profit organizations.

- Fraternity and sorority houses are managed by house corporation boards and the chapters are overseen by advisory boards, which provide structure and adult mentoring not found in apartments.

- Sorority houses are staffed by House Directors, often UVM graduate students, who provide guidance and monitor the safety and security of the house.

- Fraternity and sorority houses are residential learning communities, and as such contribute to university housing and are an extension of the university mission. More than 150 students a year would need to find alternative housing if these houses closed.

- A group of 15-25 young people living together in a home creates a unique opportunity to learn how to live with others, whose background and opinions one might not share, but with whom there are common goals and bonds. This is a life-long lesson learned.

- Serious violations of university and/or fraternity policy result in the suspension of the chapter, a penalty the members understand and respect.

→Many of the houses are designated historic sites, which means all renovations and upkeep must meet specific guidelines and codes, making them costly to maintain. Nonetheless, our pride in the appearance and the history of these homes make it all worthwhile.

→Different from 30-40 years ago, today fraternities and sororities are primarily philanthropic organizations. For example, to date this academic

year, Tri Delta has raised close to \$20,000 for local and national charities and donated nearly 1,200 hours of community service.

Recognizing your task at hand, we respectfully request that you not vote for the repeal of the tax exemption for fraternities and sororities.

Sincerely,

Kathye Boll, President; Ruthann Hackett, VP; Pam Simendinger, Sec.; Deb Languasco, Tres.