



February 4, 2015

Representative Bill Botzow, Chair  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, Vermont

8 Stratton Road  
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Dear Representative Botzow:

As a member of The Vermont Career and Technical Center Directors' Association I wish to extend my thanks to you and your committee for your invitation to provide testimony from the Vermont Technical Center Directors Association on our role in the economic development within our regions.

We believe very strongly that Technical Centers are a big contributor to both short and long term economic growth and development within our regions. We would like to report today on the success we have had on both the secondary level and in our Adult and Continuing Education evening division. Although we believe that the challenges from one end of the state to the other may differ, together as an association, and working with the State college system and other State agencies, we have made great strides in providing an educated and trained workforce for Vermont. Our main talking points today are:

- Career and Technical Center secondary programs; industry credentials, dual enrollment, and certificates needed to support a trained workforce.
- Adult and Continuing education workforce training; tailored regional needs and successes
- Challenges we face, such as;
  - Adequate funding to support Adult Education programs at all Centers
  - Lack of a fast-tracking mechanism to provide funds to support regional training needs.
  - Coordination of Services from the Department of Labor, Vermont Adult Learning and area Technical centers to reduce redundancy or duplication of services.
  - High unemployment

In 2003 the Vermont State Board of Education submitted a report to the Vermont Legislature on the state of Career and Technical Education in Vermont. This report touched on the changes being implemented in the states Career and Technical Centers and the overarching mission and vision. I have included the mission and vision as articulated in this report for your information. We are still pursuing this mission today.

### **Mission of Vermont's Career & Technical Education System**

Career and technical education (CTE) will be an integral part of Vermont's K-12 public education system and its high school innovation initiative. It will support students in their acquisition of the skills needed to pursue rewarding, high-skill careers by:

- ◆ Supporting career development throughout the K-12 system
- ◆ Providing career preparation through instruction based on industry standards that encompasses the academic, workplace and occupational skills needed in career areas
- ◆ Providing, in partnership with colleges and other stakeholders, post-high school education and training needed for an effective workforce and economic development system.

Dedicated to the education and training needs of the Rutland Region.

Serving the following area high schools:

Fair Haven, Poultney, Mill River, Proctor, Mount St. Joseph, Rutland, Otter Valley, West Rutland



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