



November 17, 2018

Sunset Advisory Commission  
State of Vermont  
Montpelier, VT

Dear Sunset Advisory Commissioners,

Women Business Owners Network (WBON) wishes to provide evidence in support of how well the Vermont Commission on Women is executing its purpose.

Women Business Owners Network is a statewide nonprofit established in 1984 to foster, celebrate, and advance women's business ownership in Vermont. Our members are primarily self-employed individuals or small business employers. We operate as a volunteer-driven organization without an executive director or paid policy staff to inform our members about happenings or to share their business voices in Montpelier.

The Vermont Commission on Women invited WBON to appoint a representative to the VCW Advisory Council in 1985 and for more than 30 years we have continued to participate and value that opportunity. The Vermont Commission on Women is a key resource for members of our organization:

- VCW serves as WBON's information source on issues affecting women, and on actions by the legislative and executive branches and other policy makers. The VCW VIEW email newsletter is regularly the first way news of changes reaches WBON's busy small business owner members, who are often also serving as primary caretakers for children and/or parents.
- VCW serves as WBON's primary educational resource on the status, rights, and opportunities for women in Vermont, including research and referrals to additional sources of information within state government. VCW, its publications, and its website are frequently cited for new members or guests at WBON's local chapter meetings and semi-annual conferences.
- VCW has consistently partnered with WBON, as it has with many other diverse organizations, to consider issues of interest to women and take action. Examples of VCW's partnerships with WBON include co-sponsoring conferences for women in business (first done in 1985 and most recently at the State House in 2016), in addition to producing the research report, WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP AND THE VERMONT ECONOMY through Change the Story Vermont. This report has become the foundation for WBON's action agenda to achieve equity in economic opportunity for women as business owners.

Sincerely,

*Jill M. Davies*

Jill M Davies  
WBON Board President