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<u>Letter to the Vermont House and Senate</u>

 My name is Marc Bogonovich. I am a native Vermonter and the founder and CEO of an open source language learning enterprise, Openwords. I have been following S.269 closely. I am writing in strong support of legislation that encourages the development of blockchain technology in the State of Vermont.

Openwords & OERs

 The Openwords webapp platform provides a variety of language learning problems. Openwords is in the early stages of working with first potential clients and soon we'll be making decisions about where to locate offices. All of Openwords technology is open source and our content will be OERs (Open Educational Resources). **OERs are clearly in the interest of the public and educational institutions due to the greater control and lower cost that OERs offer, especially to rural communities**. Across the country governments and public educational institutions are making investments into building OERs and our strategy is to partner with these institutions and to offer our platform and personnel in this task.

Why do we support the development of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency?

 Like Openwords, blockchain technology and cryptocurrency is open source. These technologies are under development but they offer the potential for more transparency and community control. These technologies present several potential benefits to startups like Openwords; they offer new opportunities to raise funds for startup capital and **Openwords can accept payment in cryptocurrency**.

 If Vermont makes a clear statement fostering an ecosystem friendly to blockchain and cryptocurrency technology, **then allied movements and technologies are likely to emerge and grow within the state. I offer the OER movement as only one example**. Openwords will highly prioritize jurisdictions embracing emerging technologies such as blockchain.

Thank you very much,

Marc Bogonovich, Ph.D.
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