



STATE OF VERMONT  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 Rural Economic Development Working Group

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April 7, 2017

Chairwoman Townshend and Members of the House Government  
 Operations Committee and  
 Chairman Carr and Members of the House Energy and Technology  
 Committee

We, the members of the Rural Economic Development Working Group,  
 would like to express our strong support for H.459, an act related to the  
 creation of Rural Economic Development Infrastructure Districts.

The REDI districts will allow municipalities, portions of municipalities, or  
 groups of municipalities to plan, finance, own and operate infrastructure  
 including renewable energy, telecommunications, transportation and  
 other facilities, for the purposes of increasing community resilience,  
 sustainability and economic vitality. These districts are unique in allowing  
 access to advantageous financing of projects that cross municipal borders.  
 They rely on a solid business case to access financing rather than  
 on taxpayer dollars.

Vermont's rural communities know the unique infrastructure needs of  
 their own area. The ability to form a REDI district would provide these  
 towns with a means to serve their own needs, instead of waiting for state  
 programs or incentives that can often prove elusive.

We would be happy to testify in your committee on this bill and urge you  
 to support the development of this important rural economic  
 development tool.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rural Economic Development Working Group