



To: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
Senator Sirotkin, Chair

From: Sivan Cotel, Co-Founder
Stonecutter Spirits, Middlebury

April 5th, 2018

Dear Senator Sirotkin and the Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs,

At Stonecutter Spirits in Middlebury, we've offered paid family leave since day one. Paid family leave has been a differentiator which helped us hire great people, including recent graduates from Champlain College, St. Mike's College, and Middlebury College — all of whom chose to stay here in Vermont after graduating in order to join our team.

By passing the paid family leave bill, we can create a statewide differentiator that helps us grow Vermont in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

And specifically at Stonecutter Spirits, since our paid family leave policy is currently more generous than the details of the bill as currently written, we have committed to 'make up the difference' for our employees. We are excited at the prospect of all Vermonters having access to paid family leave through the state, and Stonecutter Spirits will continue to be a leader above-and-beyond the state plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sivan Cotel".

Sivan Cotel, Co-Founder
Stonecutter Spirits, Middlebury