

**Testimony in Support of the Governor's Funding Proposal for
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board Delivered
before the Senate Committee on Institutions by Win
Smith on February 2, 2017**

My name is Win Smith. My family are the majority owners of Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vermont, and **I** am the CEO. Sugarbush is a four-season recreational resort, and we are the largest employer in the Mad River Valley as well as in Washington County. We employ 155 people full time plus approximately 300 part-time employees in the summer months and nearly 1,000 during the winter season.

Sugarbush welcomes over 500,000 visitors to the resort each year and they provide significant financial support to the small-town economy of our community. Our guests choose Sugarbush and the Mad River Valley for three reasons: our unspoiled beauty, our outdoor lifestyle, and our diverse recreational opportunities.

VHCB has played a vital role in all three.

By providing necessary funding for key land conservation projects like Bragg Farm, Kingsbury Farm, Phen Basin, Simplicity Farm, Lareau Swimming Hole, and most recently Scrag Mountain, VHCB has enabled our community to come together with a shared vision that encompasses a healthy river, working forests, a growing network of trails, local foods of every conceivable variety. And natural beauty.