



February 13, 2020

Representative Thomas Stevens, Chair
House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Chris Campany, WRC
President
Tasha Wallis, LCPC
Vice-President
Charlie Baker, CCRPC
Secretary/Treasurer

RE: FY 21 funding – regional planning commissions

Dear Chair Stevens and members of the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs;

On behalf of Vermont's regional planning commissions, I am asking for your consideration in supporting the work of regional planning commissions in your budget memo to the House Appropriations Committee.

Regional Planning Commissions are integral to all communities by assisting them with resiliency, climate and energy solutions, preparedness for natural disasters, writing sound policies for Act 250 and Section 248 proceedings, and modernizing community plans and bylaws, to name a few. None of these are possible without the strong support that we have from the State of Vermont.

We are grateful to you and your Committee members for your recognition over the years of the value we bring to Vermonters and to state government. We believe these investments in our capacity enhance the effective delivery of services.

Specifically: **One-time general fund resources to assist municipalities in modernizing local bylaws**

The Administration's budget submission included \$150,000, between all eleven RPCs, to underwrite our efforts to engage communities in making bylaw changes that would make housing development easier. While this recognition of the need is commendable, the number of community dialogs that must take place will require more funding than currently proposed. We believe an increase, perhaps \$200,000 per year for three years, will make a meaningful difference in our work on this important task. We respectfully ask you and your Committee's support for this Administration budget request, but at a higher level.

Please let me know if you need any further detail on these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter G. Gregory".

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director
Chair, VAPDA Government Relations Committee

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