

# WILLIAM F. SCULLY

Village of North Bennington, Vermont 05257

February 25, 2019

To: House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

RE: Municipal and Regional Planning Fund Appropriations

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Governor's Recommended FY 2020 State Budget. My comments deal specifically with appropriations to the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund that was established in 1988 and which is linked to a formula-based allocation from property transfer tax revenues. I would like to focus on the effects these funds have on the community.

I work with the Bennington County Regional Commission, the Wyndham Regional Commission, and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. I do so in a variety of roles that range from private citizen to redeveloper, to writer, to elected official.

On a municipal level, the funding provides necessary access to expertise and networking which is vital to the responsible development of our infrastructure. Without the BCRC, the Village of North Bennington would be without proper planning resources for our roads, highways and other municipal charges.

As an individual, I have found the BCRC, The WRC and the NRPC to be the silver bullet to multiple challenges in redevelopment. I could not have accomplished what I have without the support of the Regional Commissions. They are a necessary part of our economic growth and our environmental stewardship, as well as our energy independence. I have personally redeveloped projects that access renewable energy, clean our waterways, redevelop Brownfields sites, and reuse existing infrastructure. These are not minor or trivial in their scope: PCB's, dioxin, lead, first hydroelectric plant in the world to improve the water quality. In a state struggling with how to manage threats to our waterways, the BCRC has already helped to pave the way.

*PLEASE FULLY FUND THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.*

Thank you for your time and consideration.