



February 17, 2019

Representative Michael Marcotte  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
115 State St.  
Montpelier, Vt. 05633

**Re: Policy Letter for House Appropriations**

The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Association (VAPDA) representing Vermont's 11 Regional Planning Commissions are seeking full funding in FY 20 and respectfully request your Committee support of our request with the House Appropriations Committee.

Regional Planning Commissions have been providing a leadership role in the areas of land use, transportation, natural resource and emergency management planning since the mid-1960s. In addition to planning, many Regional Planning Commissions assist their member towns with community and economic Development projects. Regional Planning Commissions provide grant writing and grant administration assistance to towns so they can access state and federal funds for important infrastructure and economic development projects. This assistance is especially important this year with the passage of the Federal Farm Bill, which made the entire State of Vermont eligible for economic development and infrastructure funding through the Northern Borders Regional Commission.

At your convenience, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the role of Regional Planning Commissions in economic and community development with your Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kennedy, A.I.C.P.  
VAPDA Government Relations Committee

Chris Campany, WRC  
**President**

Tasha Wallis LCPC  
**Vice-President**

Charlie Baker, CCRPC  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

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vapda.org ~ tel. 802-388-3141 ~ fax. 802-388-0038 ~ 14 Seminary Street ~ Middlebury, VT 05753



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