



February 18, 2019

Representative Amy Sheldon, Chairperson
House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, & Wildlife
115 State St.
Montpelier, Vt. 05633

Chris Campany, WRC
President

Tasha Wallis LCPC
Vice-President

Charlie Baker, CCRPC
Secretary/Treasurer

Re: Policy Letter for House Appropriations

Dear Chair Sheldon,

The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Association (VAPDA) representing Vermont's 11 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) are seeking full funding of the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund in FY 20 and respectfully request your Committee to make this one of your highest priority requests to the House Appropriations Committee.

In FY 2019, RPCs received about 56% of the statutory formula and have been level funded for the last five years. We hope that the Committee concurs with the need to increase investment in RPCs to provide the resources necessary for us to provide needed services to the State and municipalities. The specific additional services would be: 1) water quality project prioritization and delivery, 2) energy plan implementation, and 3) town plans and bylaws, improved regional plans, and potentially additional work to support the updating of Act 250.

In the absence of county government, RPCs provide the critical link between federal, state, and municipal agencies in the areas of land use, transportation, natural resource, energy, and emergency management planning. RPCs also provide grant writing and grant administration assistance to towns so they can access state and federal funds for important water quality, infrastructure and economic development projects.

At your convenience, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the role of Regional Planning Commissions in natural resources planning and implementation with your Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie L. Baker".

Charlie Baker, Chair
VAPDA Natural Resources Committee

cc: Representative McCullough
Peter Gregory, VAPDA Government Relations Committee Chair

Strengthening the Capability of Governments