

Working Lands Coalition Request: 15M investment in WLEB

Dear Jane,

The Covid-19 pandemic and accompanying economic crisis make the support for Working Lands enterprise innovation more urgent than ever. Fundamental challenges to commodity markets for milk and forest products, plus the critical need to expand local foods diversification and value added production, make investment in the renewal of the agriculture and forest products economy fundamental to rural Vermont's recovery and our future resilience. **I'm writing on behalf of the Working Lands Coalition to encourage the Vermont Legislature to find \$15M in federal recovery funds to invest in the Working Lands Enterprise Fund for the working lands transition essential to the recovery of rural Vermont. [Please see the attached statement of the coalition.](#)**

Thank you for your consideration and for all you are doing for Vermont.

Sincerely,
Paul

Paul Costello, *Executive Director*, Vermont Council on Rural Development
on behalf of the Vermont Working Lands Coalition

Working Lands Coalition Partners: Cabot Creamery Cooperative | Center for an Agricultural Economy | NOFA Vermont | Preservation Trust of Vermont | Shelburne Farms | Vermont Association of Conservation Districts | Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies | Vermont Community Loan Fund | Vermont Council on Rural Development | Vermont Farm Bureau | Vermont Land Trust | Vermont Natural Resources Council | Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and Farm to Plate | Vermont Wood Works Council | Vermont Woodlands Association | The Woodstock Foundation