



February 9, 2022

Subject: Written Comment on the State Budget

To the House and Senate Appropriations Committee:

I am Brenan Riehl, the President and CEO of Nolato GW, formerly GW Plastics, a multi-national company and one of North America's top precision thermoplastic and silicone contract manufacturers, headquartered in Bethel, Vermont with seven manufacturing locations in North America including Bethel and Royalton, Vermont. Nolato GW employs over 400 Vermonters and has a significant need for skilled, employees to support our growth. Our parent company, Nolato AB is a publicly traded Swedish-based polymer solutions company that employees over 6,000 employees with a significant and growing presence in North America including Vermont.

As we look at ways to build our workforce pipeline in Vermont, we look first to Vermont Technical College. Nolato has significant partnerships with Vermont Tech, offering credit-bearing training to our workers. We offer scholarships and internships to Vermont Tech students, and we hire many Vermont Tech graduates. We rely on Vermont Tech as a workforce partner. The close proximity to our facilities, their professional and expert faculty, and our long-standing relationship are just a few of the reasons we continue to build our relationship with them.

I write to you today to urge you to continue your support of the Vermont State Colleges, including Vermont Tech. There are many employers in Vermont, like Nolato GW, that depend on our state colleges to provide skilled workers and to train our existing workforce. An increase to the annual appropriation will ensure VSC's essential rural campuses can continue to offer opportunities for Vermonters and Vermont employers throughout the State. Vermont and Vermont's employers – especially those of us anchored in rural communities throughout the state -- need our public higher education institutions. Please support them by increasing the annual appropriation to \$48 million dollars.

Respectfully,

*Brenan*

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