

Vermont House of Representative Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

Re: Seed Capital Funding

Dear Chairperson Marcotte and Members of the Committee,

Please accept my apology for being unable to meet with the Committee today. Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the Committee and I am sorry that I could not be available in the Committee today to support recapitalization of the Vermont Seed Capital Fund.

Since initial one-time funding was provided in 2009-10 by VCET and VEDA / State of Vermont, the fund has become a valued investor and partner for entrepreneurs in Vermont. The revolving nature of the Fund has worked but the available funds for new investing is very limited.

Investments continue to mature and thrive but the fund needs recapitalization in order to meet market needs.

Unfortunately, due to COVID impacts and growing demand for first stage seed capital, there is a deep market need for the Fund to play an active part in Vermont's recovery. One time capital from general fund or special relief fund sources would be of incredible value to provide much needed capital resources.

VEDA and VCET have done an excellent job for our state and David Bradbury and his VCET team are proven managers and the fund is ready to make new investments subject to new funding.

Thank you for your time, consideration and the Committee's efforts looking at recovery here in Vermont. And thank you and your colleagues for your hard work during the pandemic. Your service to our state is sincerely appreciated.

Best regards,

Frank

Frank Cioffi
President
GBIC (Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation and Cynosure, Inc.)