



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2022

TO: House Committee Chairs
FROM: Representative Mike Marcotte, Chair, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development
SUBJECT: Workforce Development Initiatives for the 2022 Legislative Session

We are all aware of the lack of available workers to fill open positions in every industry in the state. It has crippled the ability of organizations and businesses to operate and deliver services to the citizens of Vermont. The pandemic has contributed to the severity of the workforce shortage, but it already existed in many industries before March of 2020.

The Speaker has directed the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to coordinate legislative initiatives to address both workforce shortages and workforce development. We are asking for your committee's input and cooperation in this effort. More specifically, we are looking for your help in determining the following:

- a. What is the situation today in your policy area?
- b. What barriers, if any, prevent individuals from working in the industry? Any benefits cliff for lower income workers? Retirees possibly losing pension if they return to work? Can they be removed or lowered? Are there short-term solutions that can immediately be applied?
- c. What is the pipeline for talent in the industry? Does a clear path exist for workers to follow?
- d. What roles can be played by the various stakeholders? Government agencies? K-12 Education? Higher Ed? CTEs? NGOs? Private Industry?

Workforce development is the #1 issue for House Commerce to address this session. Please provide us with your input on the above questions by January 25th so that we have time to hear from the stakeholders you identify and give due consideration for the solutions your committee may propose. Also, please provide the name of a member of your committee to whom we can alert regarding testimony in your policy area and provide updates on our work.

Thank you for your cooperation.