

April 15, 2022

Representative Michael Marcotte, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development and Commerce
115 State Street
Montpelier Vermont 05633

Brownfield Funding – FY23

Dear Chair Michael Marcotte and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Commerce:

Thank you for your continued support of brownfield funding. In FY 22 the legislature invested \$25 million in brownfields for cleanup and assessment. Of the \$25 million that was allocated to the Department of Economic Development, Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Regional Planning Commissions, over \$20 million has already been encumbered for cleanup and assessment projects.

In FY 23 the House Appropriations Committee appropriated \$6 million in brownfields funding, through the efforts of your committee, to the Department of Economic Development.

On April 14, 2022, the Senate Appropriations Committee, through H 159 (enclosed), took the recommendation of the House Appropriations Committee for \$6 million in brownfields funding and combined it with funding for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) program for a total appropriation of \$11 million. The Committee provided no direction to the Department of Economic Development as to how the \$11 million will be allocated between the two programs.

We appreciate the support that the House and Senate Committees are providing for brownfields funding but suggest the funding be more targeted to reflect the needs of Vermont communities. We suggest the following language be inserted in the bill:

- Department of Environmental Conservation: \$2.5 million be allocated to the J&L #1 project through the Brownfield Economic Revitalization Alliance (BERA) to complete the brownfield cleanup. The J&L #1 project was allocated \$5 million through this program in FY 22.
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development \$3.0 million be allocated to the Brownfields Revitalization Fund established by 10 V.S.A. § 6654, except notwithstanding the grant limitations in 10 V.S.A. § 6654, projects supported by this appropriation shall not be limited to \$200,000 grants per parcel.

- Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA), \$500,000, for brownfields assessment, through a subgrant with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in the FY 23.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kennedy

Thomas J. Kennedy
Director of Community Development