



Senator Sirotkin and Representative Marcotte,

We would like to thank you for all the work so far to sustain and support Vermont's small businesses who have had to close their doors, partially or completely, through no fault of their own during this pandemic. While our organizations have differing priorities this session, the well-being of our business community remains paramount. We are all in agreement on the following points.

- More economic recovery grants are needed to support Vermont businesses. The last round of recovery grants only covered \$330 million out of the \$718 million in need that accrued between March and September, as demonstrated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and Department of Tax.
- The previous grant programs efficiently allocated funds, however, as with anything, there is room for improvement--particularly when it comes to comprehensive outreach, demographic data collection, and technical assistance.
- It is our belief that steps need to be taken to provide additional immediate relief, or at least, lay the groundwork for relief in the event of additional federal funding.
- We spent much of the last session building the ship as we sailed it and that was to be expected given the unprecedented moment we found ourselves in. We now have the opportunity to build on the successes of the previous round of relief and seize opportunities for improvement. Taking these steps now will ensure a well-functioning, equitable, and judicious allocation of grant funding in the future.

Thank you for all your hard work leading the state through this turbulent and difficult time.

Sincerely,

Austin Davis
Lake Champlain
Chamber

Charles Martin
Vermont Chamber of
Commerce

Jordan Giaconia
Vermont Businesses
for Social
Responsibility

Morgan Nichols
Main Street Alliance
of Vermont

