



April 22, 2021

Representative Sarah Copeland-Hanzas
Chair, Canvassing Committee
P.O. Box 43
Bradford, VT 05033
scopelandhanzas@leg.state.vt.us

RE: Senate Bill 15

Dear Chair Copeland-Hanzas:

On behalf of Microsoft, I am writing to support Senate Bill 15. We believe that the right to vote is the most cherished aspect of democracy, and we support efforts to empower all Americans from all walks of life to register and vote conveniently, safely, and securely. We believe further that strengthening the right to vote is, fundamentally, a business issue; a healthy business requires a healthy community, and a healthy community requires that everyone have the right to vote legally, conveniently, and securely.

For these reasons, we support S.15, which would help make it easier for eligible Vermonters to vote by authorizing the use of outdoor or drive-up polling places, expanding early voting, ensuring that voters have an adequate opportunity to cure issues with their ballots and ensure that they are properly counted, expanding mail voting, and authorizing the use of secure ballot drop boxes. Our first-hand experience in our home state and county, where our elections are conducted entirely by mail with widespread use of ballot drop boxes, demonstrates that early voting, mail voting, and secure ballot drop boxes can make voting more convenient *and* more secure, and so we particularly applaud your consideration of those policies.

We appreciate that there may be disagreement on issues relating to voting and elections, that administering elections is challenging and complex, and that states have different histories and practices. However, we hope that there is one thing that we can all agree upon: voting in the United States in the 21st century should be safe, convenient, and secure for all Americans. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We would encourage you to pass S.15 and we would be happy to work with you on this issue moving forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian E. Burke".

Brian E. Burke
Senior Attorney
Corporate External and Legal Affairs