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**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 10:00 AM  
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**Subject:** VAST Request Important  
**Importance:** High

Good morning Jane and all VT Senate Appropriations Members

I am writing to request an audience with your committee to discuss the one million dollars that the Governor put in his budget that was pulled by House Appropriations last week. I was not asked to speak with House Appropriations prior to this event and I believe you now have the bill. Jane, as you know since I did speak about it in Senate Transportation a few weeks ago, this money is very important to VAST to help us fix our aging fleet of grooming equipment. Without this equipment we could not maintain our trail system. Since Covid we have seen an increase of use, not just from snowmobilers but also non-motorized users, putting more strain on our system. The ability to have this existing trail system in Vermont is a needed treasure and valuable to the State of Vermont's economy (\$550,000,000 annually).

In November I wrote a letter to the Administration requesting aid. I have attached that and also I have attached a summary to make it easier to find the request language. It was this request that spurred the Administration to put the one million dollars in to the budget. This request is a one-time ask for VAST. We are not looking to come back again to ask, as these funds would be used over the course of a few years, and we would still be operating on our limited budget to support our fleet as we do now.

I also think your committee would be interested to learn about our findings regarding electric snowmobiles. We hosted Taiga, a company from Canada, for a week in early March. Taiga is developing a line of electric recreation vehicles. I would be happy to talk about their technology and if and when it will be ready for a consumer roll out in Vermont and the infrastructure that will be needed to host an electric recreation industry.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

As always, best regards.

Cindy

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