



April 8, 2022

Dear Chair Kitchel and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that offers outdoor sports and recreational programs year-round throughout Vermont, to people of any age with any disability. Since 1987, Vermont Adaptive has grown to be a national leader in adaptive sports programming, knowledge and expertise. We are the primary resource in Vermont that advocates, solves problems, lends/rents equipment, and provides solutions for agencies, organizations, schools, camps, parks, city departments and more. These groups turn to us to meet their commitment to enhanced diversity, equity and inclusion for people with disabilities, since they can't provide these resources on their own.

We have been over extended for many years as the go-to resource for adaptive sports and have filled a void throughout Vermont's recreational services. We want our services and programs to be more comprehensive and readily available to assist communities, schools and organizations in fulfilling their commitment to ensure Vermont has recreational opportunities for everyone.

H.740's \$130,000 one-time appropriation is for a wide variety of specialized adaptive sports equipment and the means to transport it, which will allow us to reach rural communities throughout Vermont who may not have the way or means to travel to us. This will allow us to better respond to demand while not competing for available equipment at our daily programs. Several pieces of the needed equipment are items we currently do not have in our inventory. These items do not need teaching assistance so they are ideal for lending.

Our \$130,000 appropriation request covers the following essential items:

- \$50,000 for a 4x4 long bed pickup truck
- \$8,000 for a multi-terrain enclosed cargo trailer
- \$10,000 for additional specialized volunteer and staff training
- \$3,000 for information technology, computers and supplies
- \$3,000 for marketing and outreach support
- \$24,000 for two ReActive Adaptations Off Road Handcycles
- \$15,000 for four Trident Trikes Terrain fat tire bikes with e-assist
- \$5,000 for four Trident Trikes Terrain fat tire bikes
- \$1,500 for a Roll and Go Shore Ramp portable boat launch
- \$2,500 for an Access Mat portable roll out accessible surface
- \$3,500 for a Hippocampe all-terrain mobility chair
- \$2,000 for a WaterWheels floating beach chair

- \$1,200 for a Kiwi Nordic Ski
- \$800 for a Creating Ability Universal Paddling Seat
- \$500 for a Creating Ability Transfer Bench

Below are the organizations to whom we provide our expertise, programs and services:

- Vermont State Parks
- US Forest Service
- ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain
- Come Alive Outside
- Vermont Recreation and Parks Association
- Vermont Mountain Bike Association
- Vermont Ski Area Association
- Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing
- Vermont Department of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Special Olympics
- Easterseals Vermont
- Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance
- Chill Foundation
- Local Motion
- Vocational Rehab
- Howard Center
- VT Huts Association
- Green Mountain Club
- Vermont Youth Conservation Corp
- Vermont Family Networks
- Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum
- Vermont Ski Areas Association
- Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center

This investment in our infrastructure and assets will last for years to come and we greatly appreciate your Committee's consideration of our appropriation request in H.740.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vermont Adaptive Informational Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLw5aQ03HoI&t=138s>

Veteran's Program Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9peUG3IQLCo&t=5s>