



Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

Office of the Secretary

April 5, 2024

Dear Chair Marcotte,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.30 and the proposed Sister State Program. The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets does not take a position on the creation of a Sister State Program.

It was asked whether our Agency runs any international programs that might interact with the proposed Sister State Program. Our Agency's international efforts are focused on supporting trade and market access for Vermont's food, forestry, and agricultural businesses. We do this through a variety of means, including participating in trade missions with the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service, providing grant funds to businesses to exhibit at business-to-business tradeshows with international buyers, collaborating with Food Export Northeast to provide technical and financial assistance to food, forestry and agriculture businesses pursuing international markets, and working with key partners like the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the US Commercial Service to provide guidance and resources to companies looking to export their products and gain access to new international markets.

For obvious reasons, our most important export market for the food, forestry, and agriculture businesses we work with is Canada. Our second most important market is Mexico. Activity and interest is robust in other markets as well but much of that is very product specific.

If you would like more information about our marketing and export effort, I would be happy to put you in touch with our Marketing and Export Lead, Trevor Lowell.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share about our programming and support. Please don't hesitate to follow-up with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anson Tebbetts".

Anson Tebbetts
Secretary