



February 22, 2024

Dear Chair Sheldon and House Environment & Energy committee,

As members of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition (VHCC) we ask you support VHCB at its statutory share of \$26M.

The Governor's FY25 budget recommend nearly achieved this target. Between the \$22M in GF and \$2.6M in the capital bill, the Governor's recommended funding for VHCB is \$24.6M. **We are respectfully requesting an additional \$1.4M to bring VHCB up to full statutory share under law.**

VHCB investments are needed now more than ever.

Besides representing all corners of our state, VHCB is part of the solution to some of our most critical problems:

- increasing permanently affordable housing,
- preventing homelessness,
- revitalizing of rural downtowns,
- strengthening our climate resilience,
- reducing flooding and improving the quality of our rivers and lakes,
- protecting our farms and working forests,
- creating opportunities for outdoor learning and exploration, and
- supporting biodiversity.

VHCB investments are essential to protecting what we value most about Vermont.

And there is a strong pipeline of community-driven projects ready to go.

Now is the time to fully fund VHCB, not just for today's urgent needs, but for the sustainability of this essential entity with its dual mission to invest in affordable housing and conservation. Receipts from the PTT have increased dramatically due to the volume of high-end real estate transactions. The investment in VHCB should continue to reflect this increase.

VHCC is comprised of conservation and environmental organizations, businesses, affordable housing developers, service providers and recreational and historic preservation groups. We are VHCB's partners and collaborators in delivering results in communities.

We respectfully urge your committee to again support VHCB at its statutory share of \$26 M which will allow us to help you meet Vermont's important needs.

Thank you,

Co-chairs of Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition

Abby White, Vermont Land Trust
Lauren Oates, The Nature Conservancy
Chris Donnelly, Champlain Housing Trust
Molly Dugan, Cathedral Square

List of VHCC Members:

Addison Housing Works	Northgate Residents Ownership Corp.
Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions	Passumpsic Valley Land Trust
Audubon Vermont	Preservation Trust of Vermont
Barre Housing Authority	Putney Mountain Association
Burlington Housing Authority	Randolph Area Community Devel. Corp.
Catamount Trail Association	Richmond Land Trust
Cathedral Square Corporation	RuralEdge
Capstone Community Action, Inc.	Shires Housing
Champlain Housing Trust	Sierra Club
Charlotte Land Trust	South Hero Land Trust
Chittenden County Regional Planning	Springfield Housing Authority
CVOEO - Fair Housing Project	Stowe Land Trust
Trust for Public Land Action Fund	The Nature Conservancy
The Conservation Fund	Tinmouth Land Trust
Cross Vermont Trail	Trust for Public Land
Downstreet Housing & Community Development	Twin Pines Housing Trust
Green Mountain Club	Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
Highgate Non-Profit	Vital Communities Workforce Housing Program
Hinesburg Land Trust	Upper Valley Land Trust
HomeShare Vermont	Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
HOPE	Vermont Center for Independent Living
Housing Trust of Rutland County	Vermont Community Loan Fund
Housing Vermont	Vermont Land Trust
Intervale Center	Vermont League of Conservation Voters
Jericho Underhill Land Trust	Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Lake Champlain Land Trust	Vermont Natural Resources Council
Lamoille Housing Partnership	Vermont River Conservancy
Lewis Creek Association	Williston Conservation Commission
Middlebury Area Land Trust	Windham & Windsor Housing Trust
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association



**Vermont
Housing and
Conservation
Coalition**