



April 18, 2024

To: The Honorable Kesha Ram Hinsdale
Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

From: Seth Bowden
President, Vermont Business Roundtable

re: H.707

Senator Ram Hinsdale:

I'm writing on behalf of the Vermont Business Roundtable in support of the efforts outlined in H.707 to restructure the composition and governance of the State Workforce Development Board ("SWDB").

This support is informed by the efforts of the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development ("SOCWED") over the past two years with assistance from Public Consultant Group, and the outcome of the SOCWED's deliberations in regards to Vermont's workforce development organizational structure.

Effective system design creates more effective outcomes, and the language in H.707 represents best practices from comparable systems across the country. Reorganizing Vermont's SWDB to incorporate those practices will enhance its ability to serve working Vermonters, employers, and create greater coordination among provider entities, while still ensuring that the membership of the SWDB reflects the breadth of Vermont's workforce system.

The work of the Board to connect multiple internal and external stakeholders is vital; I would especially underscore the importance of the direct and ongoing engagement of private employers to inform the needs faced by those hiring Vermonters across the state.

This legislation represents a move in the right direction for Vermont's workforce objectives. I encourage the Committee to consider any possible avenues to expedite the outcomes from H.707, recognizing its importance to Vermont's workforce development system.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seth Bowden".

Seth Bowden

President
Vermont Business Roundtable

