

Vermont's and Addison County's profound shortage of affordable homes is a threat to the welfare of ALL Vermonters, not only those in dire need of a place to call home.

Employers cannot attract employees because they cannot find homes. Young Vermonters must leave the state because they cannot afford to get on the real estate ladder. These trends are exacerbated by wealthier folks moving into Vermont, inflating home values and shrinking the supply, and, some, owning second homes here.

This crisis has been decades in the making; Covid only made the problem more starkly evident. Vermont cannot make true progress on any other social needs until it heavily invests in affordable home building in a sustained manner, not with episodic influxes of funds that soon dry up.

This is the legislative session to take this threat to Vermont's social, cultural and economic well being seriously with long term, veto-proof policies. Let's come together and build a future Vermont worth living in.

Sincerely,

John Barstow
ACCT Board President