

February 13, 2026

Rep. Robin Scheu, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: B.810 Vermont Historical Society

Dear Rep. Scheu and Members of the Committee:

Vermont Historical Society is grateful for the Governor's recommendation of an increase in our base budget amount to \$1,245,583 in FY27. As usual, this amount includes the fee for space formulaic transfer to BGS for the museum at the Pavilion.

That said, in addition to the 3% base budget increase recommended in the Governor's budget proposal, the four cultural organizations request an additional 10% each to demonstrate the legislature's support for organizations affiliated with federal agencies such as NEA, NEH, and IMLS which face unprecedented reductions and recissions from the current federal administration.

**Vermont Historical Society requests that the Appropriations Committee fund Vermont Historical Society at a total of \$1,370,141.**

Entering an era where the understanding and preservation of history is more critical than ever, Vermont Historical Society is hand-cuffed by unavailable federal funding and statutory requirements to our operations that grow more rapidly than 3% year over year. Requests for curriculum assistance, classroom education kits, and special programs are at an all-time high. School visit reservations to the History Museum in 2026 are up 139% over last year and our flagship program, Vermont History Day, will break participation records. The work of the cultural sector is more important than ever.

A proposed budget and detailed narrative along with our annual report is attached.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephen Perkins, Executive Director  
Vermont Historical Society