

Travis Marcotte

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Dear Members of the Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations,

My name is Travis Marcotte. I am a resident of Fletcher, Vermont, and the Executive Director of the Intervale Center. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the FY 2027 State Budget. I respectfully urge you to appropriate \$5 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Fund in FY2027.

The Intervale Center is both a recipient of Working Lands grants and a provider of farm business technical assistance to producers and food businesses across Vermont. These investments are critical to strengthening Vermont's food system and meeting our state's food security and economic development goals. To ensure Vermont can continue to grow, process, and market local food, we must invest in the businesses that form the backbone of our agricultural economy.

The Working Lands Enterprise Fund plays a vital role in increasing in-state production capacity by helping farms and food enterprises expand, innovate, and remain viable. This support not only strengthens individual businesses, but also builds a more resilient food system and rural economy for all Vermonters.

Thank you for your consideration of this important investment in Vermont's working lands and food system.

Sincerely,

Travis Marcotte

Executive Director, Intervale Center

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