

I am writing as a board member of the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center in Goshen, Vermont. Please support **base-funding of \$500,000** for the [Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative \(VOREC\) Community Grant Program](#) which is within the Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation. The FY27 Gov's Recommended Budget currently includes **one-time funding** for the VOREC grant program which is a proven tool to strengthen communities, grow local economies, and inspire stewardship of natural resources.

The VOREC grant program has a strong return on investment from \$11.2 million in 84 grants to businesses, organizations, and municipalities across all 14 counties since 2019. We have been lucky enough to receive a VOREC grant, and it has been absolutely **essential** in ensuring that we can maintain operations. Without a grant to conduct strategic planning in a time of major transition, it is more likely that our Outdoor Center would have to be sold and public access possibly revoked. With the support of VOREC, we have a plan to maintain public access to our four-season outdoor center.

Thank you!
Britta Clark