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# Vermont Council on Rural Development

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## Memorandum

To: House Commerce and Economic Development Committee  
From: Denise Smith, Executive Director of VCRD (802) 355-0694

Dear Members of the House Commerce and Economic  
Development Committee:

It came to the attention of VCRD and our partners that there were questions about the Rural Technical Assistance funding request we have put forward and its relation to the funding for the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) in your committee today.

Our request is in response to the VERTA Report to support statewide navigation, coordination, evaluation, flexible funding, and wrap around support for rural communities. This funding will help continue the momentum that was started with the MTAP pilot that is sunseting this year.

This request is in addition to the support needed for the RPCs who are instrumental to the delivery of rural technical assistance along with multiple other partners including statewide, local, and regional partners. We continue to be available for questions or testimony to help clarify the request and why it is essential at this moment as communities continue to navigate ever increasing complexity in funding and projects and need a more robust statewide TA system.

We continue to be available for questions or testimony.

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