

To: Senate Appropriations Committee, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Institutions Committee, House Energy and Digital Infrastructure, House Committee on Government Operations & Military Affairs, Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Vermont State Legislature established the Cybersecurity Advisory Council in 2023 with the goal of improving the cyber readiness of Vermont's Critical Infrastructure (CI). The Council has completed an assessment of CI operators to determine their maturity as it relates to cybersecurity. Those results have informed the first Strategic Plan which was submitted in January with the Annual Report.

Resources, specifically funding, are critical to turn the plan into results. A primary source of funding for this work is a Department of Homeland Security grant, the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). This grant program is structured with a state fund match requirement.

We request that the legislature approve the \$600,000.00 request in the Department of Public Safety's proposed budget. This funding will serve as the 20% match for the SLCGP and bring \$2.35M in Federal funding to Vermont for the delivery of services to improve Critical Infrastructure owned by municipalities.

These services include resources to assist with the following:

- Development of a cyber playbook;
- Cyber specific training videos for staff;
- Risk assessment and mitigation resources;
- Cyber threat information sharing;
- And Readiness exercises.

We appreciate the Legislature's acknowledgement of the importance of Vermont's Critical Infrastructure operators to be cyber ready. We encourage the legislature to take the next step and support the development of these services through the funding request.

Respectfully, the Cybersecurity Advisory Council.

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