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March 11th, 2025

Dear Chair Mihaly and Members of the House Committee on General and Housing,

350Vermont respectfully submits these comments in support of House Bill No. 169, entitled “An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination in public accommodations and housing,” or the The Housing Access for Immigrant Families Act.

We are a statewide, grassroots climate justice organization with 15 volunteer lead local and working groups throughout the state, over 500 people taking action, and a larger base of nearly 7,000 Vermonters receiving our regular communications. We work at the intersections of the climate crisis and social justice to advance equitable and effective climate solutions.

One avenue for this work is supporting legislation that creates more resilience for all of our communities here in Vermont, including families that have moved in order to seek asylum, safety, or the ability to support themselves or their families. Vermont’s ability to weather the climate crisis depends on the resilience of our communities as a whole to floods, droughts, storms, pandemics, and the disruption of global supply systems. Access to safe, stable, healthy housing for our most vulnerable populations is an essential aspect of resilience.

350Vermont works for a world of clean, affordable energy and a thriving future for all—a future in which all Vermonters, old and new, can find safety, housing, and opportunity. You can support this right in Vermont while also increasing our community resilience by making sure families who are undocumented, mixed-status, or asylum-seeking are not discriminated against when they seek to make our state their home.

Our neighbors who have migrated here make our communities stronger, contributing much-needed work in our agriculture, hospitality, and construction sectors; financially contributing to the state; and otherwise strengthening the fabric of our communities.

All of us deserve fair access to housing without discrimination. We hope you’ll support H.169 to ensure that right for Vermont’s Immigrant Families too.

With gratitude for your work in public service,

Rebecca Dalgin, Interim Co-Director & Lead Organizer
On behalf of 350Vermont