

February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Wood,

I am writing today to urge you to continue to fund HomeShare Vermont's expansion and \$235,000 appropriation request to include the Northeast Kingdom, Southern Windsor County and Windham County in their service area.

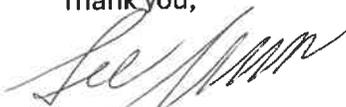
HomeShare Vermont is a matching and screening program that serves older Vermonters, Vermonters with disabilities and any Vermonter who has extra space in their home (hosts), pairing them with folks looking for an affordable place to live (guests). Guests provide some service in exchange for reduced rent in the form of household support like snow shoveling, transportation, or a just in case presence. HomeShare runs six background checks and three reference checks on all participants before they can be considered for a match.

Older Vermonter's are in need of options around how to remain in their homes, in their communities, and for many, in this state. For many, assisted or supportive housing remains out of reach financially, for others the idea of leaving their local relationships behind is devastating. Moreover, the percentage of older Vermonters who are cost burdened in their living arrangements is on the rise. Federal cuts to social welfare programs are already starting to exacerbate this situation and it's clear that HomeShare Vermont will be a necessary part of the solution for more Vermonters than ever before.

This expansion is helping more Vermonters by ensuring HomeShare Vermont has the capacity to serve a larger portion of the state all while bolstering two critical partner organizations (Windham-Windsor Housing Trust and the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging.) This program is such an efficient and affordable way to tackle both the housing crisis and ensure that older Vermonters have more choices for how they want to live their lives.

Living an independent, vibrant life should not be reserved for those with means. A community thrives most when all members can engage in the social bonds that keep them together. HomeShare provides an affordable and simple way for Vermonters who might otherwise be cut off from the connections that keep them vital. This creates an opportunity to reclaim the parts of their lives they might have otherwise had to relinquish.

Thank you,



Lee Trapeni

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