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Agency of Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Matt Walker, Chair and Representative Tim Corcoran, Vice Chair

FROM: Wanda Minoli, Commissioner of BGS 

DATE: April 3, 2025

SUBJECT: Follow Up on March 27 Welcome Centers Presentation

Chair Walker and Vice Chair Corcoran:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to your committee. The following is our response to the Committee's requested information on EV charging stations at Vermont Welcome Centers. Additionally, we have forwarded an updated presentation from my March 27 testimony to your committee assistant. Specifically, we have updated the square footage of the Guilford Welcome Center (7,103 sq. ft.) and included interior photos of advertising displays at Williston North and South Information Centers', which does provide the same promotional opportunities as Guildford.

Under federal law and regulations, Section 111, of Title 23, United States Code, and 23 CFR 752.2 prohibit commercial sales of goods and services at rest areas located on the Interstate highway system for any State receiving federal aid for their highway facilities.

In 2015, Vermont requested a determination from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the potential of allowing fee-based EV charging at rest areas. FWHA's determination was that a change in law would be required at the federal level to specifically include EV charging as one of the rest area commercial activity exceptions.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussions regarding EV charging at Welcome Centers if the Committee wishes to, but we encourage having the Agency of Transportation be a part of those discussions.

