



April 7, 2025

Senator Andrew Perchlik, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

FY 26 Appropriations requests from regional planning commissions

Dear Chair Perchlik:

Thank you for your past support in the work we do on behalf of the state and our municipalities related to planning, housing, flood recovery, and brownfields. When you invest in the RPCs, you're investing in towns in all these areas.

Today we wanted to reach out to you regarding the FY 26 budget and ask for your support in our requests: VAPDA base funding and brownfields.

Regional planning commissions have been called upon to do more and more for the state and our communities. We provide grant administration, manage FEMA and VTrans projects and assist in downtown redevelopment. The requests for our expertise cover a wider number of issues and have become more complex and are linked to many issues simultaneously. For example, finding new areas suitable for housing development necessitates floodplain and river corridor expertise. This is occurring at a time when municipal capacity has been under strain due to the overwhelming demands placed on them. We are often the staff the towns cannot find nor afford.

For Vermont to thrive, it must achieve its goals in increasing housing development, supporting natural resource protection, increasing hazard and climate mitigation, and growing its economy, and resources must be available. We can do our part to achieve these goals with your help.

Here are our FY26 budget requests below in priority order.

- 1. We ask for your support for the \$7,740,546 in RPC funding as proposed in the Governor's recommended budget and included in the House-passed budget, (Sec. D.100(a)(3)(A)).**

Devon Neary, RRPC

Chair

Bill Colvin, BCRC

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Secretary/Treasurer

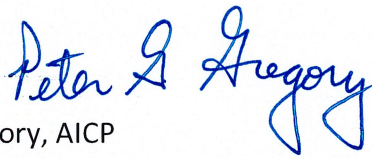
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2. **We also ask for your support for \$1,000,000 in brownfields assessment funds directed to the RPCs to make sure investments are spread across the State.** These dollars were not in the Governor's recommended or the House-passed budget. **However, this funding request was supported by the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee in the Senate passed Housing Bill.** They also included the \$2,000,000 for brownfields loan funding which was in the Governor's recommended budget (Sec. B.1100(o)(2)).

Please feel free to reach out if you need any clarification on our request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Gregory, AICP

Executive Director, TRORC, and on behalf of VAPDA

cc: Vermont RPCs
Rebecca Ramos, Necrason
Group