

February 13, 2026

Sen. Andrew Perchlik, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: B.810 Vermont Historical Society

Dear Sen. Perchlik and Members of the Committee:

Vermont Historical Society is grateful for the Governor's recommendation of an increase in our base budget amount to \$1,245,583 in FY27. As usual, this amount includes the fee for space formulaic transfer to BGS for the museum at the Pavilion.

That said, in addition to the 3% base budget increase recommended in the Governor's budget proposal, the four cultural organizations request an additional 10% each to demonstrate the legislature's support for organizations affiliated with federal agencies such as NEA, NEH, and IMLS which face unprecedented reductions and recissions from the current federal administration.

Vermont Historical Society requests that the Appropriations Committee fund Vermont Historical Society at a total of \$1,370,141.

Entering an era where the understanding and preservation of history is more critical than ever, Vermont Historical Society is hand-cuffed by unavailable federal funding and statutory requirements to our operations that grow more rapidly than 3% year over year. Requests for curriculum assistance, classroom education kits, and special programs are at an all-time high. School visit reservations to the History Museum in 2026 are up 139% over last year and our flagship program, Vermont History Day, will break participation records. The work of the cultural sector is more important than ever.

A proposed budget and detailed narrative along with our annual report is attached.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephen Perkins, Executive Director
Vermont Historical Society