Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I respectfully ask that you please appropriate $5 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Fund in FY2027.

In FY2023, the Vermont Brewers Association received a Working Lands grant to strengthen and support our member brewers through streamlined access to local resources and community growth. With that funding, we built an online portal where members can post jobs publicly, access password-protected resources, buy and sell equipment, connect directly with one another, and promote events on a public-facing event calendar. As a 501(c)(6) nonprofit, access to grant opportunities like this is essential to advancing our mission and ensuring Vermont's brewing businesses remain resilient and connected.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your continued support of Vermont's Working Lands Enterprise Fund and the businesses that sustain our communities.

Thank you,
Emma Arian
Executive Director, Vermont Brewers Association