

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 19, 2026

The Honorable House and Senate H.949 Conferees
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Conferees:

My Administration is sending letters to the committees of conference for H.933 (the miscellaneous tax bill), the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding H.944 (the Transportation bill) and to you regarding H.949 (the yield bill). As already outlined in our letter sent to the committee of conference on H.951 (the budget bill), these bills are all linked based on their impact on our education reform discussions. This means any, or all, of these bills could initially be vetoed to ensure we have all the levers we need to address education transformation.

Vermonters have been very clear: they simply cannot afford the property tax burden they face. I appreciate the efforts of many lawmakers who have worked with us to solve the long-term structural problems we face in our underperforming education system, including funding, governance, and quality while providing Vermonters with interim property tax relief. However, it's essential we follow through on our promise to Vermonters and complete our transformation work before the Legislature adjourns.

As we transition to a more efficient and affordable system that benefits all students, cost containment and tax relief are both essential. As you know, my budget proposed \$105 million in much needed property tax relief for fiscal year 2027. The Senate included over \$100 million in their version, while also including language from S.220 to address cost containment during the transition years to a more effective and efficient education system, which is a 'must have' from my perspective.

We must also be cognizant of the fact that while test scores continue to decline, our inefficient system has led to increased costs, leaving school boards with no option but to make further budget cuts, but not enough to prevent property taxes from increasing. I understand change isn't easy, but we shouldn't be fighting to preserve a system that is giving kids and taxpayers these results. We have an opportunity to do better, this session, for our teachers, students and taxpayers and my administration looks forward to working with you as the session comes to a close.

Sincerely,


Philip B. Scott
Governor

cc: The Honorable Jill Krowinski, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Phil Baruth, President Pro Tempore of the Senate