



Vermont Council on Rural Development

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Vermont Lawmakers Support Working Lands Investment: Five million per year for three years will build a strong working lands economy

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MONTPELIER, VT ? A coalition of lawmakers today delivered a ?Dear Colleague? letter to the Vermont House and Senate Appropriations Committees, in support of the ?five-by-three? investment for the Working Lands Enterprise Fund. The 66 legislators wrote, ?We are confident of the return of this investment in maintaining the character of Vermont while building jobs for the future and encourage you to make investing in ?5 by 3? a key priority of this Legislative session.?

The governor included \$1.5 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Fund in his FY14 budget proposal. Last year?s Working Lands Enterprise bill (Act 142) provided an initial appropriation of \$1,175,000, which has elicited applications for almost \$12,000,000 from 378 entrepreneurs. The Appropriations committees are reviewing the governor?s budget and will develop their own proposals over the next few weeks.

The following legislators signed onto the letter:

1. Representative Clement Bissonnette (D-Chittenden-6-7)
2. Representative Carolyn Branagan (R-Franklin-1)
3. Representative Mollie Burke (P/D-Windham-2-2)
4. Representative Sarah Buxton (D-Windsor-Orange-1)
5. Representative Brian Campion (D-Bennington-2-1)
6. Representative Stephen Carr (D-Rutland-6)
7. Representative Margaret Cheney (D-Windsor-Orange-2)
8. Representative Kevin Christie (D-Windsor-4-2)
9. Representative Alison Clarkson (D-Windsor-5)
10. Representative Joanna Cole (D-Chittenden-6-1)
11. Representative Daniel Connor (D-Franklin-6)
12. Representative Charles Conquest (D-Orange-Caledonia)
13. Representative Susan Davis (P/D-Orange-1)
14. Representative David Deen (D-Windham-4)
15. Representative Johannah Donovan (D-Chittenden-6-5)
16. Representative Debbie Evans (D-Chittenden-8-1)

17. Representative Michelle Fay (D-Caledonia-3)
18. Representative Anne Gallivan (D-Rutland-Windsor-1)
19. Representative Sandy Haas (P/D-Windsor-Rutland)
20. Representative Mary Hooper (D-Washington-4)
21. Representative Diane Lanpher (D-Addison-3)
22. Representative Joan Lenes (D-Chittenden-5-2)
23. Representative John Malcolm (D-Rutland-Bennington)
24. Representative Richard Marek (D-Windham-5)
25. Representative Cynthia Martin (D/W-Windsor-3-2)
26. Representative Michael McCarthy (D-Franklin-3-1)
27. Representative Kristina Michelsen (D-Caledonia-2)
28. Representative Anne Mook (D-Bennington-2-2)
29. Representative John Moran (D-Windham-Bennington)
30. Representative Michael Mrowicki (D-Windham-4)
31. Representative Christopher Pearson (P-Chittenden-6-4)
32. Representative Philip Peltz (D-Lamoille-Washington)
33. Representative David Potter (D-Rutland-2)
34. Representative Barbara Rachelson (D-Chittenden-6-6)
35. Representative Paul Ralston (D-Addison-1)
36. Representative Keshia Ram (D-Chittenden-6-4)
37. Representative Herbert Russell (D-Rutland-5-3)
38. Representative Charles Shaw (R/D-Rutland-6)
39. Representative Kristy Spengler (D-Chittenden-9-2)
40. Representative Thomas Stevens (D-Washington-Chittenden)
41. Representative William Stevens (I-Addison-Rutland)
42. Representative Valerie Stuart (D-Windham-2-1)
43. Representative George Till (D-Chittenden-3)
44. Representative Tristan Toleno (D-Windham-2-3)
45. Representative Maida Townsend (D-Chittenden-7-4)
46. Representative Linda Waite-Simpson (D-Chittenden-8-2)
47. Representative Kathryn Webb (D-Chittenden-5-1)
48. Representative Cynthia Weed (P/D-Franklin-7)
49. Representative Susan Wizowaty (D-Chittenden-6-5)
50. Representative Mark Woodward (D-Lamoille-2)
51. Representative Michael Yantachka (D-Chittenden-4-1)
52. Representative Teo Zagar (D-Windsor-4-1)
53. Senator Philip Baruth (D-Chittenden)
54. Senator Christopher Bray (D-Addison)
55. Senator Don Collins (D-Franklin)
56. Senator Ann Cummings (D-Washington)
57. Senator Bill Doyle (R-Washington)
58. Senator Eldred French (D-Rutland)
59. Senator Bob Harwell (D-Bennington)
60. Senator Ginny Lyons (D-Chittenden)
61. Senator Norm McAllister (R-Franklin)
62. Senator Dick McCormack (D-Windsor)

63. Senator Anthony Pollina (P/D/W-Washington)
64. Senator John Rodgers (D-Essex-Orleans)
65. Senator Jeanette White (D-Windham)
66. Senator David Zuckerman (P-Chittenden)

The Vermont Working Landscape Coalition is a non-partisan and broad-based effort to support local agriculture and forestry, grow and attract farm and forest entrepreneurs, and conserve Vermont's Working Landscape far into the future. The members believe that all Vermonters benefit from the state's working landscape and everyone should contribute to ensure its future.

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