

July 1, 2023

Adam Grinold
Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
76 Cotton Mill Hill
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Bill Colvin
Bennington County Regional Commission
210 South Street, Suite 6
Bennington, VT 05201

Dear Adam and Bill,

We are the current Senators and Representatives of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone, which was created by the Vermont Legislature in 2015. The Zone is made up of the forty-four towns within the boundaries of the Windham County Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation and Windham Regional Commission and the Bennington County Bennington County Regional Commission.

The Southern Vermont Economic Development District (EDD) is a proposed multi-jurisdictional non-profit entity, which will be recognized at the local, state and federal levels, and which will lead planning and development of current and future five-year Southern Vermont Zone Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and coordinate funding and implementation for locally based and regionally driven economic development capacity and public and private sector projects within the Southern Vermont Zone.

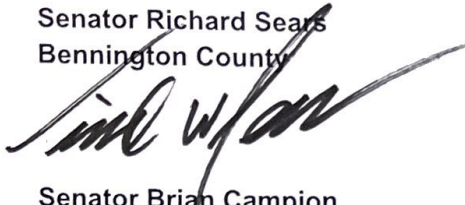
The first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Southern Vermont Zone was completed in 2019. We support the 2030 vision for the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone as home to a resilient, creative, and inclusive community in which businesses and people thrive and prosper, and the five CEDS priority actions to achieve that vision that were identified through the public process: increase the population, improve the physical infrastructure, enhance social infrastructure, expand business infrastructure and develop the Zone's economic development capacity.

We are proud of our Southern Vermont towns, businesses and institutions that have a history of coming together to plan and implement our CEDS strategy, and work together on natural disaster recovery, CEDS planning and development and COVID-19 relief programs.

We strongly support your request to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to designate the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone as an Economic Development District.

Thank you,

Senator Richard Sears
Bennington County



Senator Brian Campion
Bennington County

Representative Seth Bongartz
Manchester



Representative Nelson Brownell
Pownal



Representative Timothy Corcoran
Bennington



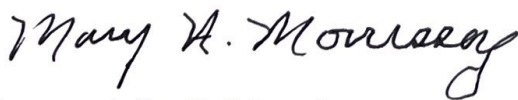
Representative Robin Chesnut Tangerman
Middletown Springs



Representative David Durfee
Shaftsbury



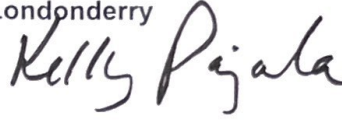
Representative Mary Morrissey
Bennington



Representative Kathleen James
Manchester



Representative Kelly Pajala
Londonderry



Representative Mike Rice
Dorset



Representative Dane Whitman
Bennington



Senator Wendy Harrison
Windham County



Senator Nader Hashim
Windham County



Representative Michele Bos Lun
Westminister



Representative Mollie Burke
Brattleboro



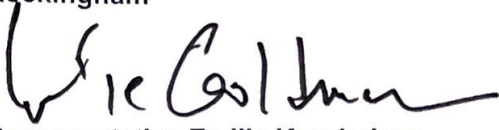
Representative Heather Chase
Chester



Representative Sara Coffey
Guilford



Representative Leslie Goldman
Rockingham



Representative Emilie Kornheiser
Brattleboro



Representative Emily Long
Newfane



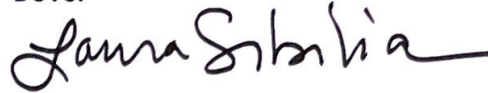
Representative Mike Mrowicki
Putney



Representative Tristan Roberts
Halifax



Representative Laura Sibilio
Dover



Representative Tristan Toleno
Brattleboro

