

December 22, 2021

Brian Lowe, Executive Director  
Vermont Council on Rural Development  
P.O. Box 1384  
Montpelier, VT, 05601-1384

Dear Brian,

Following up on our prior discussion, we are writing on behalf of the Rural Economic Development Working Group (REDWnG) of the Vermont House of Representatives to request administrative staffing support from Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) during the 2022 Legislative Session.

REDWnG is a tri-partisan caucus of more than 50 House Representatives with the shared goal of advancing policy that strengthens and supports Vermont's rural communities and economy. As a group, we value civil discourse, local wisdom, and working across party lines for a better future for Vermont.

Given the alignment with VCRD's organizational values and mission, we have long had a positive working relationship with the organization. Our goal as a caucus is to elevate the voices of those living in Vermont's rural communities and support policy initiatives that help to address critical issues across the state. In the past, VCRD staff have participated in our meetings, and we have occasionally requested that they share perspectives from their work.

The working group relies heavily on the capacity of our chair, vice-chair, and secretary, for whom the logistical and administrative demands of this caucus exist in addition to those of their assigned committee work and general legislative workload.

VCRD support would include:

- (1) Connecting with REDWnG leadership each week during the session to build meeting agendas;
- (2) Sharing agendas and reminders in a timely fashion with all members of the working group;
- (3) Providing logistical support for the meetings and a follow on summary to participants.

We understand the limitations of VCRD's ability to support us in this capacity, and we don't anticipate the cumulative weekly workload to exceed 2-4 hours.

Thank you,

Charlie Kimbell (D), *REDWnG Co-Chair*  
Laura Sibilia (I), *REDWnG Co-Chair*  
Katherine Sims (D), *Clerk*  
Lucy Rogers (D)  
Leslie Goldman (D)

Heather Surprenant (P)  
Patrick Seymour (R)  
Kelly Pajala (I)  
Logan Nicoll (D)  
James Harrison (R)  
Lisa A Hango (R)  
Peter Conlon (D)  
Sarita Austin (D)  
Theresa Wood (D)  
Woodman Page (R)  
Martha Feltus (R)  
Elizabeth Burrows (D)  
Henry Pearl (D)  
Paul Lefebvre (I)  
Gabrielle Stebbins (D)  
Matt Birong (D)  
James Gregoire (R)  
Carl Rosenquist (R)