



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

February 21, 2021

Dave Contois  
13 Lavoie Dr.  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Dear Dave:

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office. COVID-19 has laid everything bare, and we cannot go back, we must go forward and work to recover stronger from this pandemic. Addressing our small businesses, the backbone of our community, is a top priority.

Thank you again for sharing your views on the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the impact on the financial well-being of your small business, Soli Music, Inc. I am deeply committed to elevating the voices of Vermonters, and I hope you will not hesitate to contact my office again. I look forward to seeing you in your community soon.

Wishing you good health as we work together to ensure Vermont recovers stronger from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly R. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Molly R. Gray  
Lieutenant Governor of Vermont

802-828-2226

[www.ltgov.vermont.gov](http://www.ltgov.vermont.gov)

@ltgovgray

Hi Lt. Gov. Molly, I have an issue with the VT ACCD Grant Department that I'd like to discuss with you if possible. They denied our second round of stimulus grants for my Soli Music, Inc and Contois Properties, LLC businesses because of reasons that were the fault of the department and not ours. They used incorrect financial information from our online application process. They would not allow us to submit the correct information through the ACCD online portal, so we emailed the correct information via email attachments. and also provided a link to our Google Drive to download. We've been emailing back and forth and they keep giving me reasons for the denial of applications that are incorrect, ("did not submit in a timely manner, and financial information not provided") Both are inaccurate and untrue. I've provided them with all the correct information they need in a timely manner and I have all the documentation and timelines available for you to review. Our unmet need for both our our companies combined came to around \$79K, so I cannot afford to let this go. I can email all the details if I could get an email address to send them to. Our music education business, Soli Music, Inc. had to close on-site lessons back in March 2020. We had 200 students a week and now are teaching 60 remotely . We are trying our best to provide remote learning music education to Vermont K-12 students and these funds are essential for keeping these programs in place until we can get back to on-site lessons without any COVID 19 restrictions. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you, and congratulations on your new position. Dave Contois Owner/Administrator Soli Music, Inc Essex Junction, VT 05452 Cell: 802-318-6869 eMail: dave@solimusic.com Personal: dave@contois.com