

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 5, 2013

Sandford Blitz, Federal Co-Chair  
Northern Border Regional Commission  
Margaret Chase Smith FOB, Suite 113C  
202 Harlow Street  
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Mr. Blitz,

After review of the three eligible Vermont applications for the Northern Border Region Commission (NBRC), I am writing to certify all three projects as priorities for NBRC grant funding. Listed in order of priority, these projects are exciting collaborations between economic development, regional planning entities, and other partners. We are hopeful that all three will be funded.

1) Vermont Center for Geographic Information

Seeking \$169,100 in funding from NBRC for a project totaling \$338,200, this project is under the “basic public infrastructure, business development and distressed county” categories and will develop the telecommunications infrastructure of the region by obtaining and updating digital mapping data including municipal maps, roads, boundaries, and waterways to standards of the Vermont GIS Parcel Data standards for each town. This project partners with the Regional Planning Commission in each region and any NBR town willing to create and update a digital version of its existing parcel records. This project is an outstanding collaboration between economic development, regional planning, and municipalities consistent with NBRC priorities.

2) Vermont Global Trade Partnership (ACCD)

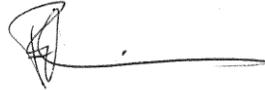
The Vermont Global Trade Partnership is a collaboration of organizations involved in import/export activities in Vermont coordinated by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). Seeking \$186,000 from the NBRC as part of a project totaling \$231,600, this project is under the “workforce development, business development and distressed county” categories and will fund an “ExportTech” program, in partnership with the Vermont Manufacturing Extension center, the U.S. Export Assistance Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Vermont Small Business Development Center and other regional partners to assist businesses and organizations in obtaining technical assistance in international trade.

3) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board provides technical assistance to farm, forestry and agricultural businesses for business planning to assist in their growth. Seeking \$72,261 in funding from NBRC for a project totaling \$145,242, this project is under the category of "business development" and will assist seven farm businesses who have enrolled in this program. This project will assist a minimum of 23 businesses in the production, manufacture, processing, distribution or marketing of Vermont natural resource-based products, forest products, or value-added agricultural products. This project will also provide increased profitability, business growth, and job retention, and will leverage an existing commitment of \$425,000 in state funds.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you as we help to bring relief to these counties through economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor