



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
332 Dirksen Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

April 22, 2022

**Re: FY23 CDS Request: Wild Ways Foundation, 7GA & Polar Productions
Wild Foods TV show, advocacy platform and national curricula initiative**

Dear Senator Sanders,

I am writing to you in support of the *Wild Foods* initiative FY23 CDS request.

This initiative includes the *Wild Foods TV* series, a nationally broadcast edutainment TV series set to reach 1.2 million viewers per episode produced by Vermont's Polar Productions; an education and advocacy platform; and national K-12 curricula for educators, built and distributed through PBS and American Public Television's Create network.

These curricula provide a vehicle for young Vermonters and people across the country to build a relationship with nature and find their footing in the world. They focus on sustainability, agriculture, the environment, science, travel and adventure, and encourage habits for making healthy food choices. The curriculum build includes opportunities to maximize the scope and reach of the work of other key Vermont stakeholders such as Sterling College.

The teams which have come together for this project have a proven track record in Vermont advocating the Vermont brand, building local capacity, and strengthening regional opportunities. This initiative provides the opportunity for significant positive local and national impact.

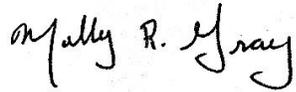
The initiative addresses key areas of importance to Vermont and the region including climate change mitigation, agricultural and rural development, agritourism, natural resources, health and education, inclusion and diversity, and the building of resilient communities and economies based upon the enhancement of ecological assets.

This initiative provides an innovative approach to empower the Vermont brand. The Wild Ways Foundation/Polar Productions initiative sets to usher in a new opportunity for Vermont to capitalize on its standing as a bastion of local, wild and organic foods, enhanced ecological assets and inclusive nature.

Support of this initiative will also assist in the advancement and expansion of the creative economy here in Vermont.

The entirety of this initiative promises to be a force for positive change in our Vermont communities and throughout the country. I wholeheartedly endorse this initiative and ask that you give this application your full consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly R. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and "G".

Molly Gray

Vermont Lieutenant Governor