

**From:** Coriell, Scott [Scott.Coriell@state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:37 AM  
**To:** Coriell, Scott  
**Subject:** As AFSCME Pulls Conference from Indiana, Gov. Shumlin Invites them Relocate to VT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 31, 2015

**As AFSCME Pulls Conference from Indiana, Gov. Shumlin Invites them Relocate to VT**

**MONTPELIER** – Gov. Peter Shumlin is inviting AFSCME to relocate their 2015 Women’s Conference to Vermont after the union canceled plans to hold the conference in Indiana over disagreements with the state’s new ‘religious freedoms’ law and the message it sends to the LGBTQ community.

In a letter to AFSCME President Lee Saunders, Gov. Shumlin notes Vermont would be an ideal place to host the union’s conference given its legacy of promoting equal rights. “Vermont was the first state to outlaw slavery and the first state to legislate marriage equality simply because it was the right thing to do, not because a court mandated it,” the Governor noted. The full letter is copied below.

Mr. Lee Saunders  
President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO  
1625 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036-5687

Dear Lee,

I applaud your public opposition to the Indiana law that promotes discrimination against the LGBTQ community and your decision to move AFSCME’s 2015 Women’s Conference to another state. I would like to personally invite you to relocate your conference to Vermont.

Our state has a long, proud tradition of supporting equal rights. Vermont was the first state to outlaw slavery and the first state to legislate marriage equality simply because it was the right thing to do, not because a court mandated it.

In that tradition, we would be proud to work with you to determine if Vermont has facilities that can accommodate your conference, and if so, relocate it to the Green Mountains.

Sincerely,

PETER SHUMLIN

Governor of Vermont

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