

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lt. Governor Phil Scott works at Vermont Rail Systems

Montpelier, VT - Yesterday, Lt. Governor Phil Scott continued his "Vermont Everyday Jobs" tour, installing new railroad ties along the Clarendon-Pittsford Railroad Line in Rutland.

The work was part of a Vermont Rail Systems project called the "Amtrak Get Well Plan." The upgrades will allow passenger trains to travel at faster speeds, reducing travel time from Rutland to Whitehall, New York.

Those upgrades are desperately needed, Lt. Governor Scott said. "Right now, passenger trains can't travel faster than 35 miles per hour in a lot of places because of the age of the rail lines. If we want to make passenger rail competitive with car or air travel, we definitely need to make improvements."

Scott said he was impressed with how automated the work has become. Nevertheless, he said, he did still have to do some work by hand; specifically, he admitted, "I had to go back and finish some of the spikes I didn't get quite right on the machine."

Yesterday's "everyday job" highlighted the work that is literally going on every day around the state, between the regularly-scheduled rail upgrades like this project, and the restoration of rail infrastructure damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. "There's been a lot of focus on road and bridge repairs after the storm," Scott said, "and many people don't realize that rail lines and bridges experienced major washouts in more than 100 places." Fortunately, rail service throughout the state has now been restored.

"I commend the railroad employees, contractors and Agency of Transportation employees who worked around the clock to get that work done," Scott said. "I was only at it for a couple of hours, and it is hard work."

About Lt. Gov. Phil Scott's "Vermont Everyday Jobs" Initiative

Lt. Governor Phil Scott started his "Vermont Everyday Jobs" initiative to promote Vermont businesses and highlight the hard work that Vermonters do every day in all areas of our economy. By finding out firsthand, and in a hands-on manner, what it takes to make Vermont businesses work, the Lt. Governor will gain a better understanding of what state government can do to help those businesses work better. The tour will also help to facilitate relationships and ongoing dialogue between Vermont business leaders and their representatives in state government.

In previous "Vermont Everyday Jobs," Lt. Governor Scott has worked with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Lake Champlain Ferry, Breakwater Cafe, the Windjammer/Best Western Inn in South Burlington, St. Albans beekeeper Michael Palmer, violin-maker Doug Cox in Brattleboro, taught second grade at Union Memorial School in Colchester, built a solar tracker at AllEarth Renewables, checked lift tickets at Stowe Mountain Resort, worked in the Emergency Department at Porter Hospital, worked with a Green Mountain Power line team, and changed oil at Vermont Quicklube.

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For more information, please contact:

Nancy Driscoll
Chief of Staff, Lt. Governor Phil Scott
nancy.driscoll@state.vt.us
Office: 802-828-2226
Cell: 802-734-7555