

Vermont Young Professional Economy Pitch

April 21, 2015

Name of Organization: Burlington Young Professionals (Vermont Gas)

Name of Individual/s Presenting Pitch: Owen Brady (chair of steering committee)

Challenges Facing Vermont Businesses/Specific Sector:

Need for continued growth and development in the State

- signs of economic success on a micro scale but not a macro level

- as young people leave we are forced to make difficult choices to balance our ledgers

- lack of skilled workforce, lack of state support, lack of support for entrepreneurs as they move through the business environment

Desire to keep the rural feel impedes growth

We can't afford to own or rent homes

Ideas/Suggestions to Rejuvenate Vermont's Economy:

Become a state that is receptive to biz, provides resources to success including infrastructure, allow biz to thrive while maintaining VT character

Do not view manmade treasures as blights on the landscape

- they are what reduce the affordability barrier

Legislation around growth centers (focused growth), helps retain rural character

- however, commercial development is halted

- box stores are protested, old buildings are kept for their historic purpose but aren't useful

- green space development is equally as challenging

- 1) provide straightforward predictable permitting paths, timelines and costs

- 2) simplify process for green development in the state

Businesses need predictability

Other Challenges we must address:

Other Comments: