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STATE'S ATTORNEY

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STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
GRAND ISLE COUNTY

March 4, 2016

Vermont General Assembly
House Committee on Judiciary
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

RE: Opposition to "Lighten the Load" Proposal to Regionalize the Courts: DR15

Dear Chairwoman Grad and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Enclosed, please find a petition signed by over 300 Vermonters who oppose any attempt to regionalize the courts or expand venue rules. The majority of these Vermonters reside in Grand Isle County, and are therefore my constituents, as well as constituents of Rep. Mitzi Johnston, Rep. Robert Krebs, Senator Dustin Degree, and Senator Dick Mazza. These "Islanders" value local access to justice, given how rural and isolated our beautiful county is. I have taken the time to highlight several of their comments on the petition, such as:

"I believe it is important for cases to be heard expeditiously and within reasonable proximity to the population effected."

"Every county should have its own court system and the people should have the rights to it."

"Small communities deserve and must have reasonable access to the justice system. Victims deserve the right to see that the accused are held responsible in the County where the offense was committed."

"[W]e deserve to have our justice in our own county."

"Going to St. Albans would be a hardship for myself, and also the people involved. I fear there would not be proper justice for those involved, if they can't travel."

"Enough is enough!!!!"

"Stop the Vermont Supreme Court from taking more away".

"Our courts should serve the people".

"Local justice is important to achieving a fair process and outcome for residents of Grand Isle County regardless of their economic status or issues such as transportation."

"Not only do our victims have a difficult time getting to North Hero, but sending them to another county would prove detrimental. Moving victims to another county is re-victimizing them and placing them in another uncomfortable setting. No one should be victimized in the first place, let alone made to travel to another county to seek justice."

"People in this area who use the courthouse can't travel to get help elsewhere."

"People would be forced to drive to Chittenden County. This would be a hardship for many of the citizens of Grand Isle County. We receive very few services in this county but pay the same taxes as the rest of the citizens."

"I feel it's important to keep our court matters in our own county. We know each other here and having to travel elsewhere could be a great hardship for many."

"We need the same access to justice as the rest of Vermont."

"It is unacceptable to expect residents to travel outside of our county to conduct legal business or to testify in trials concerning Island crimes/residents. We are a separate county, not an extension of Franklin or Chittenden county. We deserve the same rights afforded all other counties in the state."

"It would be hard on most to travel that far and be costly also."

"We are a county in Vermont and we expect the same access to justice as all the other counties."

"We are remote enough without having to go to another county's courthouse."

"County proceedings need to happen in our county."

On Friday, February 26, 2016, Court Administrator Patricia Gabel further testified on the "Regional Venue" section of DR15. During her testimony, she stated that the Judiciary's desire to have this passed was "as a way for [the Judiciary] to continue to experiment with better ways to move cases through the system, particularly when the problem [they] have are not just within the Judiciary, the resources within the Judiciary, but particularly where there are resources issues with the Public Defenders or the State's Attorneys, or DCF, or what have you." I can speak to the "State's Attorneys" Ms. Gabel referenced—the Vermont Department of State's Attorneys as an entity strongly opposes regional venue.

Ms. Gabel further stated that "[t]he Vermont Bar Association as an entity does not oppose the Regional Venue Model." According an email I received on February 26, 2016 from the Executive Director of the VBA, its "Board [of Managers] did not take a position on that." I would urge the House Judiciary Committee to reach out to VBA Board Member and retired Superior Court Judge Ben Joseph for clarification as to the VBA's position on "Regional Venue".

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As you know, on February 3, 2016, during his testimony, the reason Judge Brian Grearson stated they needed "Regional Venue" was that the Judiciary simply has run out of physical space in Franklin County to hold any additional hearings—he said he has the judges now to send up to Franklin County, but no courtrooms available. As you also know, I subsequently identified numerous dates and times during February and the beginning of March when this was simply not the case. Immediately after Judge Grearson's testimony on February 3, 2016, I reached out to the Franklin/Grand Isle Bar Association via email, and asked the following:

"I was able to sit in for the lighten the load Bill presentation, specifically to regional venue, and I will update you all shortly. One of the striking things that Judge [Grearson] said, was that in Franklin County the judiciary was at max capacity in terms of court rooms. He says that he has judges to send up there but all the court rooms are full every day. Is this accurate?"

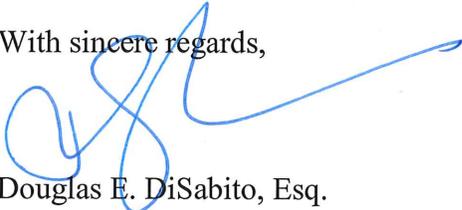
The Court Operations Manager for the Vermont Superior Court, Franklin Unit, responded to my email, and stated:

"Not completely. We reserve every Monday for Judicial Bureau but it is rare that they use the courtroom more than once or twice per month. They need to get their monthly schedule to us faster than a few days before the beginning of the month. Also, we have small claims approximately once every month. **Otherwise we have three Thursdays per month when the [civil] courtroom is not being used.** We also do not have it in use every Friday. **We may have one Friday per month clear.**" (emphasis added)

The Vermont Judiciary has not run out of court space in Franklin County to hear Franklin County cases.

Thank you for your time and for taking into consideration the positions and comments from over 300 Vermonters who signed the enclosed petition opposing "Regional Venue". Should any of you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me directly.

With sincere regards,



Douglas E. DiSabito, Esq.
Grand Isle County State's Attorney

DDS/jj

Enclosure

CC: Rep. Mitzi Johnston, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations
Rep. Robert, Krebs, Grand Isle County
Sen. Dick Mazza, Grand Isle County
Vincent Illuzzi, Esq., Essex County State's Attorney
Jesse D. Bugbee, Esq., President, Franklin-Grand Isle Counties Bar Association

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Vanessa Branon Kittell, Esq., President, VTAJ

Hon. Sherri Potvin, Asst. Judge, Grand Isle County

Hon. Joanne Batchelder, Asst. Judge, Grand Isle County

Hon. George Spear, Esq., Probate Judge, Grand Isle County

Michelle Monroe, Staff Writer, St. Albans Messenger

Tonya Prouty, Asst. Editor, The Islander Newspaper

Recipient: Gov. Shumlin, Lt. Gov. Scott, Senators Mazza, Degree, Sears & Benning, and
Reps. Johnson & Krebs

Letter: Greetings,

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Vermont Constitution, as "all power being originally inherent in and consequently derived from the people . . . all officers of government, whether legislative or executive, are their trustees and servants; and at all times, in a legal way, accountable to them." We are therefore petitioning that you keep our courthouse in Grand Isle County open and fully functional, **with no venue rule changes**. We deserve the same access to justice as all other counties in Vermont, and deserve the ability to obtain justice "promptly and without delay".

321 Signatures
99 Comments

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Douglas DiSabito	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-16
Cheryl Dunn	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-16
Brian Bluto	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-16
Neil Mendick	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-16
Joannie Skellie	Orlando, FL, United States	2015-04-16
Chris Prouty	Marblehead, MA, United States	2015-04-17
Jim Holzschuh	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Renee Patterson	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Evanthia Hill	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Barbara Gardner	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Ellen Thompson	south hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
John Dewane	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Kristal Gomez	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Bruce Batchelder	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
amy daudelin	alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Patricia Treckman	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Lance Tatro	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Evan Potvin	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Gail White	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Erin Martell	Grand isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Judy M. Duval Duval	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
jeri baker	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Paul Zera	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Joan whitesell	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Jane Zera	Hartford, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Walter Blasberg	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
John FitzGerald	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Thereza cononi	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Timothy McAllister	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Brigit Frazier	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17

Name	Location	Date
Rita latimer	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Carole Lavallee	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
jeanie bass	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Michelle hunter	Burlington, VT, United States	2015-04-17
brittany baker	south hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Connie Cosgrove	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Kelly Murdock	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Alex Kugelmass	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Lance Percy	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Lynn Soule	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Michael Sullivan	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Ronald Danis	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Jennifer Theoret	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Amber Beauregard	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Anne Stewart	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Dorothy Adams	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Katie Ballard	Essex, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Meredith Henry	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Tonya Poutry	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Lauri Fisher	Cambridge, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Erin Mora	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Meghan Martell	West Topsham, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Chris Oneill	Lake Mary, FL, United States	2015-04-17
Kathleen Magill	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Kathleen O'Brien	Colchester, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Judy DeMars	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Lynda Shand	grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Deborah Bumgardner	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Kathy O'Donnell	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Larry Mumley	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Lori Terry	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-17
Samantha Allen	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-17

Name	Location	Date
Megan Miller	South Portland, ME, United States	2015-04-17
Hunter Colvin	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Fred Hopkins	Swanton, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Sherry Mitchell	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Judy Higgins	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Michael Murdock	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Karen Gleich	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Karen Cameron	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Kim Littlefield	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Robert Miller	Fairfield, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Jessica McAllister	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Taylor More	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Carol O'Donoughue	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Eugene Fodor	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Wayne Misselbeck	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Toni-Lynn Soule	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
patricia savage	alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Irene Clarke	NORTH HERO, VT, United States	2015-04-18
James Martin	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Sandra Sturgeon	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Ronald Terry	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Constance Boutin	Alburgh,, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Catherine Tatro	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Laurel Moffatt	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Jacqueline Hamlin	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Renee Mills	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Elizabeth Dobson	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-18
paula Bradley	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-18
lois c. cameron	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Penny Tracy	East Berkshire, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Kate Kinney	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Donna Larose	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18

Name	Location	Date
Mary Pero	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
William Richardson	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Albert Benson	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-18
Jacquelin Jarvin	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Colleen Shaw	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-19
jeanette O'Conor	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Larry Cameron	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Cody DeMars	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Sandra Vincent	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-19
wendy tatro	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Jason Lee	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Susan Lake	Chula Vista, CA, United States	2015-04-19
Kelly McAllister	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-19
Ramona Reed	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Leslie Tudhope	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Cathy Tudhope	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Chad pepin	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Andrea Lavallee	Marshfield, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Danielle James Choiniere	Highgate, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Amee Gotshall	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Michelle Godwin	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-20
Ken Johnston	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-21
Matthew LeFluer	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-21
Brenda Fodor	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-21
Karl Duffy	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-21
Christopher Shyer	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-21
Richard Ernst	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Laurie Huse	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
HERBERT WILCOX	NORTH HERO, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Judith Steacy	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Donald Tinney	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
benjamin trudell	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22

Name	Location	Date
Michelle Willard	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Ann Colby	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
barbara bluto	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Liza Kilcoyne	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Beverley Camp	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Helen Winters	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Ann Barton	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
cassandra waters	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Ron Haskell	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Thomas Maher	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Susan Bishop Lawrence	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Sarah Allen	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Elizabeth Traver	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Samantha Lockerby	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Patricia robear	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Rose Bacon	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Christen McDonald	Sevierville, TN, United States	2015-04-22
Tim Harris	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Jeremy Martell	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Rita Douglas	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Pauline Pearo	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Gordon Knight	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-22
Shirley Callaghan	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Sally Coppersmith	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Bridget Timms	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Melissa Roberts	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Anne Goodrich	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
David Geney	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Patti Malone	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Shirlene wilson	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
christine blackmore	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Hailey Dubuque	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23

Name	Location	Date
Case Michael	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
cathie larson	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Susan Mobley	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Pete Johnson	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Patricia Durham	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Elizabeth St. Clair	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Tina Patno	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Allyson McAllister	Colchester, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Lisa Santor	Burlington, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Tammy bourdeau	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Naomi King	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Arthur Huse	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Mark Pidgeon	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
tracy Gibson	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
David Cain	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Dora Letourneau	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Janine Banks	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Pat Elmer	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Laura Limoge	Marshfield, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Thomas Saylor	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Richard Higgins	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Richard Bayer	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Mary Watson	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
david ehrich	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Catherine Merrihew	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Andre Quintin	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Stephanie Mazuzan	Williston, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Waters Dighton	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Jenness jillson	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Gerald Shepard	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
John Coburn	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Glenn Ravdin	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23

Name	Location	Date
John M. Skutel	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Concerned Citizen	New City, NY, United States	2015-04-23
Maureen Pidgeon	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-23
Pamela Cuneo	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Teresa Tierney	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Donna LeClair	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Shirley Prushko	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Sally Cameron-Miller	Fairfield, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Lucille Campbell	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Mj chanski	Rutland, VT, United States	2015-04-24
ANN Porter	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Michael Reed	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
cynthia Pepin	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Adam White	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Malcolm Lee	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Levi Thill	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Paul Adam	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Tony Pietricola	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Lori Shaw	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Suzanne Gagnon	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Gail Brisbois	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Jaime short	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Gail Horne	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Matthew Jensen	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Donna Polk	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Gina Lewis	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Ronnie Bushway Bushway	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Robert G Gagnon	Palm Beach Gardens, FL, United States	2015-04-24
Carolyn Barber	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Crystal Theoret	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Edward McMillan	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Wendy Horne	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24

Name	Location	Date
John Gavin	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Jan Tatro	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Wendell Dickhaut	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Laura Bourgeois	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Bonnie Paquette	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
daniel schoch	grand isle, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Deborah Spaulding	isle la motte, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Chris Retz	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Earl Poquette	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Susan Davis	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Giles Raymond	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Keith Bonneville	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-24
alycia tatro	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Mary pidgeon	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-24
Real Duteau	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-25
Victoria Chase	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-25
Susanna Jaeger	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-25
Carolyn Prasch	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-25
Morgan Bovat	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-25
Penelope Sasso	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-25
Keanna Dumont	Janesville, WI, United States	2015-04-26
Randy Bonneville	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-04-26
Lisa Shepard	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-27
Kate ONeill	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-27
Paula Delano	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-27
Nathan Fiske	North Hero, VT, United States	2015-04-27
George Delano	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2015-04-27
Robert Brown	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-28
Margaret Nowak	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-28
Terry Tatro	Alburgh, VT, United States	2015-04-28
Stuart ROBINSON	United States	2015-04-29
Amy Gove	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-04-30

Name	Location	Date
Mark Rocheleau	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-05-01
Diane Cota	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-05-01
Jean Hunt	South Hero, VT, United States	2015-05-02
Constance Biddle	Montreal, Canada	2015-05-05
Cynthia Demore	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2015-05-05
Patricia Wicks	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2015-05-06
David FitzGerald	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-21
Karen Steele	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-21
Dale Costello	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-22
barbie perez	alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-22
Jay Surprenant	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-22
Jeff Parizo	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2016-01-22
Cheryl Wells	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-22
Coletta Greenbaum	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-22
Carol Pellerin	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-22
Jen Keser	Milton, VT, United States	2016-01-23
Barbara Blair	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-23
David Ferguson	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-23
Stacey Soule	Mooers Forks, NY, United States	2016-01-23
Rick Gallagher	Fairfax, VT, United States	2016-01-23
Deb Bartlett	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2016-01-24
Timothy Fair	South Burlington, VT, United States	2016-01-24
Kathleen Cheney	Swanton, VT, United States	2016-01-24
Jessica McAllister	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-24
Kendrick Bellows	Grand isle, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Bonnie Mathieu	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Judith Guernsey	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Christopher Burnett	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-25
BEVERLY NOBLE	ISLE LA MOTTE, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Christine Mack	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Timothy Tatro	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Stephen Mank	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2016-01-25

Name	Location	Date
Robert Jones	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-01-25
Richard Edward McCormick, Esquire	Jeffersonville, VT, United States	2016-01-26
Jean Johnston	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2016-01-26
William Cristman	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2016-01-26
Richard Gadbois	Enosburg Falls, VT, United States	2016-01-27
DAWN POULIOT	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-27
David Sicard	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-27
Shirley FitzGerald	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-01-27
Julie Dickie	Grand Isle, VT, United States	2016-01-27
John Littlefield	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2016-01-27
Jordan Lupien	Saint Albans City, VT, United States	2016-01-27
William Howland	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2016-02-27
Julie Pease	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-02-27
Elizabeth Monley	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Connie Cosgrove	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Mary Scandore	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Michelle Salvador	Worcester, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Mark Girardi	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-02-28
MarthaJo Walton	Crestline, CA, United States	2016-02-28
John Howe	Charlotte, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Beth Parizo	North Hero, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Laura Snow	Colchester, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Jennifer Egelhof	Plainfield, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Tin (Justin) Barton-Caplin	Barton, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Cammie Kumrtz	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Ben Eastwood	Montpelier, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Andrea Mills	Barre, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Yvonne Baab	Middlesex, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Douglas Kerr	South Hero, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Lisa Wernhoff	Montpelier, VT, United States	2016-02-28
Ember Boyle	Isle La Motte, VT, United States	2016-02-29

Name	Location	Date
Pam Leonard	Alburgh, VT, United States	2016-02-29
Kris Lukens	Milton, VT, United States	2016-02-29
Heathet Leonard	Hardwick, VT, United States	2016-03-02

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Neil Mendick	North Hero, VT	2015-04-16	Every county should be represented with its own courthouse and constituents need not have to travel great distances to another county
Joannie Skellie	Orlando, FL	2015-04-16	Because the Island people need to have it remain open
Jim Holzschuh	South Hero, VT	2015-04-17	We need the courthouse in the Islands
EVANTHIA HILL	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-17	I know how important it is to keep justice local and not get lumped in with other counties where our needs will not be met in a timely fashion.
Bruce Batchelder	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	Grand Isle residents deserve the same access to justice as every other resident of the state of Vermont.
patricia treckman	Ocala, FL	2015-04-17	I'm signing because people of our county shouldn't have to travel out of county to find justice and transact business with the judicial system.
Lance Tatro	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-17	we deserve it and need it
Evan Potvin	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	We need access to the court system and should not be turning out sheriffs dept into a taxi service.
Jane C Zera	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-17	Closing will cause a hardship of the Islanders! Transportation, time and energy - we need a Courthouse in the Islands!
Walter Blasberg	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	I believe it is important for cases to be heard expeditiously and within reasonable proximity to the population effected.
Theresa Cononi	South Hero, VT	2015-04-17	our county needs its court house! If we lose this many services will follow suite! The money to support the court house comes from our pockets!
Rita latimer	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	I think it is important for Grand Isle county.
Michelle hunter	Burlington, VT	2015-04-17	I was an island resident for a long time and this court house needs to stay open!
Kelly Murdock	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-17	We need our local courthouse. It is convenient and easy to get to when you have jury duty or have another reason to be at court.
Lynn Soule	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	The court house keeps Grand Isle County a county. Without it, we become a nobody to either Chittenden County or Franklin County. Not acceptable, we are SOMEBODY, listen to us!
Michael Sullivan	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	I want grand isle to remain a county with its own services. Being lumped with franklin and Chittenden robs us of our identity.
Ronald Danis	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	Every county should have it's own court system and the people should have the rights to it.
Jennifer Theoret	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-17	Justice delayed or justice unreachable is no justice at all.
Anne Stewart	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	It is important to our Islands' communities to have our judicial system alive and well and present in the Islands.
Tonya Poutry	South Hero, VT	2015-04-17	Small communities deserve and must have reasonable access to the justice system. Victims deserve the right to see that the accused are held responsible in the County where the offense was committed. Grand Isle is a county, that pays a county tax like every other of the 13 counties of Vermont that supports the operations of the courthouse. The state provides the funding of two employees and the State of Vermont contracts with the Grand Isle Sheriff's Dept. for one and a half employees for front door & courtroom security M-F and pays a portion of the phonebill. There is no advantage or \$avings to shutting down our courthouse! Actually it will most likely end up costing the State more!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Kathleen O'Brien	Colchester, VT	2015-04-17	I lived in North Hero for 18 years
Judy DeMars	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-17	you have to be made aware how important it is for Grand Isle County to keep our courthouse!
Deborah Bumgardner	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	We need our courthouse, we deserve to have our justice in our own county. Furthermore with the existing backlogs and long waits to get on the calendar to get our cases heard we need to have more court days per month.
Kathy O'Donnell	North Hero, VT	2015-04-17	We need to be united in this!
Larry Mumley	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-17	The Courthouse is a historic icon in the Lake Champlain Islands and reminds Islanders that the judicial system is well and alive in the Lake Champlain Islands.
Samantha Allen	South Hero, VT	2015-04-17	I am the victim advocate based in the Grand Isle County State's Attorney's Office. Not only do our victims have a difficult time getting to North Hero, but sending them to another county would prove detrimental. Moving victims to another county is revictimizing them and placing them in another uncomfortable setting. No one should be victimized in the first place, let alone made to travel to another county to seek justice. Closing our courthouse proves a lack of respect for the citizens of Grand Isle County and their right to receive justice in their county. Grand Isle County residents should not be made to travel due to a poorly made decision to shut down our court house. Everyone in favor should talk to the victims of this country and ask if saving a miniscule amount of money is worth a victim's dignity and pride. You will find it is not!
Megan Miller	South Portland, ME	2015-04-17	I'm signing because I grew up in Grand Isle County. They need to keep all services there, it is important to the community.
Judy Higgins	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-18	We need a fully functional courthouse in Grand Isle County. It will be a hardship on our residents to lose it, and we should not become even further a forgotten county.
Jessica McAllister	South Hero, VT	2015-04-18	GRAND ISLE COUNTY NEEDS THEIR COURTHOUSE!
Carol O'Donoghue	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-18	I live in Grand Isle County, and have had occasion to use this courthouse. It was a privilege to be within those historic walls.
Toni-Lynn Soule	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-18	I think this is ridiculous this has not been thought all the way through. It's will cost more in the long run. Why us we have nothing from the state now might as well not be part of Vermont the forgotten County just take it from them!
Irene Clarke	NORTH HERO, VT	2015-04-18	People in this area who use the courthouse can't travel to get help elsewhere.
Joe Terry	Grand Isle,, VT	2015-04-18	I believe that we need to keep the court house operating as it is.
Constance Boutin	Alburgh,, VT	2015-04-18	We need to keep our courthouse. The county owns the building and pays the expenses. The state would save very little. The constitution of Vermont states that each county shall have a courthouse. People would be forced to drive to Chittenden County. This would be a hardship for many of the Citizens of Grand Isle County. We receive very few services in this county but pay the same taxes as the rest of the citizens. Please sign this petition and contact your representatives and ask them to vote to save our court.
lois cameron	isle lamotte, VT	2015-04-18	we deserve to have a courthouse in our county. We are Vermonters, too
Penny Tracy	East Berkshire, VT	2015-04-18	I was adopted in this courthouse it has special meaning to me
Kate Kinney	North Hero, VT	2015-04-18	I think we need to keep our courthouse open to help maintain timely justice. Clogging up some other courthouse will prolong our ability to get justice.
Donna Larose	North Hero, VT	2015-04-18	I feel it's important to keep our court matters in our own county. We know each other here and having to travel elsewhere could be a great hardship for many.
William Richardson	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-18	It belongs there

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Susan Lake	Chula Vista, CA	2015-04-19	I'm signing because I lived in south Hero for 18 years of my life and did a legal internship with Franklin/Grand Isle Public Defender. I am an attorney now and access to justice is a real issue if the courthouse closes. Keep it open!
Cathy Tudhope	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-20	The State won't save any money by closing our Court House. As it is Grand Isle County is a forgotten county by the state as it is. Leave this alone.
Ken Johnston	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-21	to keep the courthouse open
Brenda Fodor	South Hero, VT	2015-04-21	Leave this alone. We need a say in Grand Isle County.
Karl Duffy	South Hero, VT	2015-04-21	Prompt, efficient service is an absolute necessity for GI County!
Christopher Shyer	North Hero, VT	2015-04-22	Equal justice includes local jury pool of peers. The Courthouse also supports a large part of the local economy. Closure would create unemployment and lower tax collections, defeating the purpose of the closure in the first place.
Laurie Huse	South Hero, VT	2015-04-22	Grand Isle County is not an inferior, second tier county... We deserve our own courthouse.
HERBERT WILCOX	NORTH HERO, VT	2015-04-22	It's the right thing to do
Judith Steacy	South Hero, VT	2015-04-22	The Grand Isle County courthouse was here when I needed it and the agents were very helpful.
Donald Tinney	South Hero, VT	2015-04-22	We need the same access to justice as the rest of Vermont.
Michelle Willard	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-22	Grand Isle County deserves to have its own courthouse. It is unacceptable to expect residents to travel outside of our county to conduct legal business or to testify in trials concerning Island crimes/residents. We are a separate county, not an extension of Franklin or Chittenden county. We deserve the same rights afforded all other counties in the state.
Ron Haskell	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-22	Grand Isle County deserves to have a local court for conduct of business without imposing unnecessary hardship on people who avail themselves of the legal system.
Susan Lawrence	North Hero, VT	2015-04-22	We need our Courthouse!!!
Sarah Allen	North Hero, VT	2015-04-22	Born and raised in north hero.
Patricia Robear	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-22	We need our court house. We maybe small to most, but we are stronger together. It would be hard on most to travel that far and be costly also.
rita douglas	North Hero, VT	2015-04-22	I love our court house.
christine blackmore	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-23	I have served on a few jury's there and love it's charm and is very convenient to us in the islands
Case Michael	South Hero, VT	2015-04-23	local government is important
Janine Banks	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-23	Not only is it convenient for GI County residents (so much up here is not) but more important is the sense of community it provides.
Laura Limoge	Marshfield, VT	2015-04-23	I do not believe small communities should receive fewer or inferior services-- particularly when it comes to our Justice System!
Mary Watson	North Hero, VT	2015-04-23	We are a county in Vermont and we expect the same access to justice as all the other counties.
Andre Quintin	North Hero, VT	2015-04-23	Because it is our constitutional right to "due process in our county"
John Coburn	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-23	I can't believe that this is even being considered!!
John M. Skutel	North Hero, VT	2015-04-23	We need local access to justice.
Maureen Pidgeon	South Hero, VT	2015-04-23	We need Nth is to stay open

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Pamela Cuneo	North Hero, VT	2015-04-24	Grand Isle County deserves a court house. It is also a key component of the small North Hero Village.
Donna LeClair	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-24	We are remote enough without having to go to another county's courthouse. Please keep our courthouse open. We are deserving of this.
Shirley Prushko	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-24	I am signing because this is in the best interests of all Vermonters.
Mj chanski	Rutland, VT	2015-04-24	i support Douglas disabito!
Michael Reed	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-24	County proceedings need to happen in our county.
Adam White	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-24	The strain this will cause Islanders having business at the court is not acceptable with the increase travel people will have to incur.
Ronnie Bushway Bushway	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-24	I am the Town Health officer, and there have been times I have had to go to Court over Tenant / Landlord issues. Going to St Albans would be a hardship for myself, and also the people involved. I fear there would not be proper justice for those involved, if they can't travel. It also would take our law enforcement away if they have to transport offenders, this puts our Townspeople at possible great risk.
Wendy Horne	South Hero, VT	2015-04-24	I believe the court house is important to Grand Isle County
Earl Poquette	North Hero, VT	2015-04-24	Our state tax money quickly leaves North Hero but but never comes back in the form of state services to us. I'm tired of financing only the projects that make politicians look good so they can be re-elected. Mr.Shumlin wasted millions of tax dollars in a failed attempt for single payer insurance, and now we are being asked to pay for his budget shortfalls.
Keith Bonneville	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-24	I think it may be a state constitutional right to have a courthouse in each county. Otherwise how can anyone be tried by "a jury of his peers"?
Mary Pidgeon	South Hero, VT	2015-04-24	courts are overcrowded already. Our county should have its own court house to hear crimes committed in Our own county should hear crimes committed in our own county and shouldn't have to transport to other counties causing undo stress on law enforcement
Real Duteau	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-25	Enough is enough!!!!
Susanna Jaeger	South Hero, VT	2015-04-25	Because we need to keep the local court system for our communities of Grand Isle . . . Not have our residents needing to travel 'outside'.
Carolyn Prasch	Grand Isle, VT	2015-04-25	I am signing this petition because Grand Isle County pays almost all the expenses of the courthouse and because the back docket is growing every year with victims of crime and abuse waiting a very long time for justice.
Randy Bonneville	Isle La Motte, VT	2015-04-26	Again, the consequences of our legislature not being fiscally responsible for years have cascaded into the kind of budget cuts that target institutions in counties who are perceived to be "too little to fight back effectively". So now we face the loss of a county courthouse. Hopefully, this petition will succeed as every county in the state should have its own courthouse. Push our representatives to make it a state law, so that we do not have to face this issue again during the next round of budget cuts.
George Delano	Saint Albans City, VT	2015-04-27	I do not believe closing the courthouse would result in any real savings at all. It will just move costs from one place to another. As Grand Isle residents, we would receive significantly less service from the Sheriff's Department because every court appearance would be half an hour away, wasting their very valuable time and resulting in far less time for them to be providing law enforcement services here in the Islands. To maintain our current level of service, we would require more deputies, resulting in a cost increase, not a savings.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Robert Brown	Alburgh, VT	2015-04-28	Oh great!!!! Now we will have to spend 45 minutes driving both ways to get justice or serve on a jury. Makes sense???? NO WAY!!!! Just like most of the decisions being made these days in the political arena.
Stuart ROBINSON		2015-04-29	I am both a Rabbi and Lawyer. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THIS HISTORIC OPEN TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON A FULL TIME BASIS. THERE IS AN ECONOMIC SIDE IN THAT POTENTIALLY INSTEAD OF FOLKS UTILIZING OUR LOCAL SERVICES BECAUSE OF THE COURTHOUSE THEY WILL GO TO ANOTHER COMMUNITY FOR THOSE SAME SERVICES DUE TO THE LOCALITY AND PROXIMITY OF THAT COURTHOUSE. WE ARE A COMMUNITY BOTH LOCALLY AND STATEWIDE. THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ECONOMIC FORESIGHT AND GOVERNANCE. BY THE WAY THE BILL TO TAX LEGAL SERVICES AMONG OTHERS TO HELP CURE THE DEBT WILL ONLY SERVE TO HURT SOLO PRACTITIONERS WHO MAINTAIN GENERAL PRACTICES WHICH INCLUDE TAXABLE SERVICES.
Jean Hunt	South Hero, VT	2015-05-02	This courthouse is important to those who live in Grand Isle County. We have a right to have this facility close by. The big cities of Vermont are not all of the people in our state.
Constance Biddle	Montreal, Canada	2015-05-05	I love the folks ,and the town.
cynthia demore	isle la motte, VT	2015-05-05	We need our courthouse!
David FitzGerald	Alburgh, VT	2016-01-21	We need a court in every county!!!
Randy Bonneville	Isle La Motte, VT	2016-01-21	Didn't we go through this once before when the Grand Isle courthouse was threatened? It seems our so-called representatives have a collective tin ear when we--at that time--told them not to tamper with the venue rules. We, the voters must use our responsibility to hold elected representatives accountable for their stubborn attachment to venue change by REMOVING THEM FROM OFFICE WITH OUR VOTES.
Jay Surprenant	North Hero, VT	2016-01-22	This, and many other types of over reaching by our government must be stopped.
Jeff parizo	Grand Isle, VT	2016-01-22	Keep court house open
David Ferguson	North Hero, VT	2016-01-23	To have families, or certain members of, drive to a distant court when we have a beautiful facility right here in town, is ludicrous. Not only does it take additional time and money--not just for gas or public transportation--but also through loss of wages for possibly several days while the case is decided. If the courthouse is conveniently located here, it should be utilized as often as possible.
Kathleen Cheney	Swanton, VT	2016-01-24	I believe it is in the best interest of the State of Vermont and the residents to keep our court houses functioning correctly. The Vermont Supreme Court has already cut our judges hours. Stop the Vermont Supreme Court from taking more away?
Richard Gadbois	Enosburg Falls, VT	2016-01-27	Our courts should serve the people even if they are not profitable.
DAWN POULIOT	Alburgh, VT	2016-01-27	This county has a great need to its community along with the jobs it creates for locals.
Julie Dickie	Grand Isle, VT	2016-01-27	I'm a victim of criminal activity in grand isle county...we need to keep the local courthouse.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
William Howland	Isle La Motte, VT	2016-02-27	In ALL of Grand Isle County, there is NOT ONE three-color traffic light! No High School, No LOTS of public infrastructure! We are RURAL VERMONT dudes! We are not chopped liver! So for Krizakes, leave our courthouse operations the heck alone and provide some support for life in a rural Vermont county for once. Sheeeeeesh!
Elizabeth Monley	South Hero, VT	2016-02-28	I support the people of North Hero in their effort to retain this beautiful building and because Grand Isle County deserves a dignified, fully functioning courthouse in a central location. Local truly is better.
Judy Higgins	Alburgh, VT	2016-02-28	Local justice is important to achieving a fair process and outcome for residents of Grand Isle County regardless of their economic status or issues such as transportation. Keep our courthouse open.
Andrea Mills	Websterville, VT	2016-02-28	I agree with this petition.
Lisa Wernhoff	Montpelier, VT	2016-02-28	Grand Isle County has its own issues and identity and should have its own courthouse.
Dale Costello	Alburgh, VT	2016-02-29	Please keep our courthouse open and functioning.