

January 8, 2013

Governor Peter Shumlin
VT State House
Montpelier, Vermont 05609

Dear Peter,

Best wishes for the New year!

What a great situation for Rutland County, with three wonderful candidates for you to consider in filling friend Bill Carris' Senate seat. Each one is most capable, whether it be Bob Baird, Eldred French, or Cheryl Hooker all of whom I've supported in their campaigns for the VT House and Senate.

The most outstanding candidate for me is Cheryl Hooker who worked on my successful campaign for VT Senate in 1988. She was one of many dedicated volunteers who worked hard to help get me elected.



I began serving in January 1989 and soon after, there was a seat open in the House for Rutland City. Governor Kunin called to ask my advice and I said without hesitation, Cheryl Hooker, who I had learned through her recent work with me was very bright, most articulate and an excellent student. Following her appointment, it was clear to me as we commuted to Montpelier together, that Cheryl was a quick study and it was she who introduced me to the merits of having a universal health care system explaining it in detail, as we drove back to Rutland.

Her experience with local government, having served in Rutland City government, her work in the House and then in the Senate makes her a uniquely qualified candidate. What is special about Cheryl is that she is a generous and gregarious woman whom folks really like and listen to.....she's facile in interacting with all kinds of personalities, bright and knowledgable, thoughtful, a wonderful problem solver and just plain fun. The way that Cheryl leads is by doing, and doing she does!

With the particular issues before the legislature this year, she would bring a depth of knowledge and convincing arguments to health care reform, creative solutions in education (she is a teacher in Clarendon), and has interest in creating change to the corrections system (she's been a big proponent for transitional housing for former prisoners, volunteering with Dismas House for many years.) On the topic of energy, she and her family were the first family in Rutland that I can remember who installed solar panels on the front of their home perhaps 25 years ago. They are a family who live what they believe.

Cheryl would bring a unique set of skills; she knows Rutland County like the back of her hand since she was born and raised here, and has great respect from the community.

Thank you, Governor, for your consideration of Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker, a woman of integrity, to represent Rutland County in the Vermont State Senate.

Yours sincerely,

Rita

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