



September 7, 2010

Patricia Donnelly
Chairwoman, Rutland County Pro-Business Coalition
50 Woodstock Avenue
Rutland, VT 05701

Dear Ms. Donnelly:

Thank you for sending us your organization's questionnaire. As pro-business candidates ourselves we appreciate organizations that are committed to supporting candidates who understand that a healthy business climate is essential to the well-being of all Vermonters. Many of us have owned and operated businesses in the county for many years and we understand the importance of legislation that promotes and supports business in Vermont.

We found your questionnaire quite interesting, however. Each of the twelve questions asked allows for only a response of "yes" or "no." The issues you attempt to address are very complex and thus many require equally complex answers. In addition, many of the questions are based on hypothetical scenarios and not necessarily based on actual issues or decisions immediately or soon to be before us.

We've decided that rather than filling out the questionnaire, we can better educate you and your organization on some of these issues and our positions thereof in this letter.

Furthermore, it's no secret that many of our Republican opponents are either loosely or directly affiliated with your organization. In fact, it's widely known throughout our communities that the Rutland County Pro-Business Coalition is indeed a partisan organization.

While it's clear that your organization largely represents the interests of Republicans running for state legislative seats in Rutland County and not necessarily the business community of Rutland County, we do not wish to completely dismiss your inquiry to us. We recognize that your members are also members of our community and deserve to know where we stand on issues of importance to business and to a thriving Vermont economy.

This past biennium, the legislature passed a comprehensive jobs bill that invests almost \$9 million in federal stimulus funds for broadband, workforce training, access to capital, agriculture and many other worthwhile projects.

New legislation now makes business and commerce more equitable and more efficient. The Vermont Seal of Quality has been strengthened; fair labor laws ensure proper classification of employees for workers' compensation; the unemployment trust fund is now solvent to carry us

through this recession; and merchants are now free to decide for themselves whether or not to accept credit cards for purchases under \$10, since they often lose money on small credit card transactions due to high fees charged by big credit card companies.

As pro-business candidates we especially appreciate the small businesses and the entrepreneurs in this state. We support the funding of the Vermont Economic Development Authority, which provides more access to capital as small business start up. We also support investing in Buy Local programs and the Farm-to-Plate grants that are available.

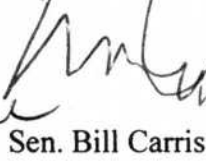
As our state continues to fight its way out of this economic recession, we're proud to support the measures that have been put in place to put Vermonters back to work, strengthen our telecommunications infrastructure and help businesses thrive in Vermont.

It should also be noted that those of us who are incumbent legislators scored quite high on the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility score card that was released just a couple of weeks ago. Many of us had a voting record of 100%. Our records speak for themselves.

As we've been campaigning, we continue to be humbled by the amount of support we've been getting from the business community, particularly the small businesses that are so key to the local economy. We look forward to continuing the conversation with the many hard-working Rutland County residents whose livelihoods are tied to a thriving business environment.

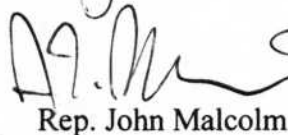
Best regards,


Rep. Peg Andrews

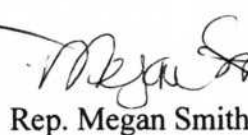

Sen. Bill Carris



Rep. Gale Courcelle


Rep. Eldred French

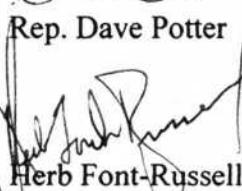

Rep. John Malcolm


Rep. Dave Potter


Rep. Megan Smith


Bob Baird

*Anne Lezak on
behalf of
Brigid Faenza*
Brigid Faenza


Herb Font-Russell


Cheryl Hooker


Tony Morgan

cc: RCPBC Board members; Rutland Herald