The Bank of Bennington

Dear Members,

The 10% in Vermont program plays a pivotal role in supporting the development of affordable and workforce housing across the state. By providing low-interest financing at critical moments, the program will enable the Bank of Bennington to help move projects forward even amid rising costs and challenging market conditions.

Using a loan from the Treasurer's Office, we created the **"Building Up Bennington County" program**, a $2.5 million partnership to provide low-cost loans to local homebuilders, helping a pipeline of housing projects break ground across the region. Funding prioritizes projects that build new homes or revitalize units that have been offline for more than a year, making housing more affordable for working- and middle-class Vermonters.

Programs like this not only expand housing access but also strengthen local economies, support essential workers, and help communities grow sustainably. By reducing construction costs and leveraging partnerships with local lenders and regional organizations, the 10% in Vermont program ensures investments have meaningful, long-term impact for Vermonters.

We strongly support and encourage passage of bill **H.775**, which will continue to empower the Treasurer's Office to invest in initiatives that grow Vermont's economy, expand housing opportunities, and ensure that Vermonters can live and work in their communities with dignity.

Sincerely,

James D Brown
President and CEO

Online Banking
thebankofbennington.com

Main Office: 155 North Street, Bennington, VT 05201 — *Phone 802-442-1640 Fax 802-442-1641*
Branch: *32 Phyllis Lane, Bennington, VT 05201* — *Phone 802-445-3123 Fax 802-445-3142*
3198 Route 7A, Arlington, VT 05250 — *Phone 802-375-2319 Fax 802-375-2617*
78 Center Hill, Manchester Center, VT 05255 — *Phone 802-362-4760 Fax 802-362-0577*
143 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701 — *Phone 802-774-5085 Fax 802-774-5005*