

## **DRAFT - TOWARD A VISION STATEMENT**

### **Vision for the Future of Economic Development in Vermont: 2017**

The successful strategic economic development plan is based on measurable indicators of economic well being, resilience and growth for Vermonters in the turbulent global economy. The successful execution of the plan leads to the following conditions:

Vermonters are creating and growing successful enterprises, and have the opportunity to work in superior workplaces;

The state's strategic employers are competitive in their industries, and the economy is increasingly diverse, as small businesses and entrepreneurs flourish.

Vermont is distinguished by its direct support of entrepreneurship, innovation and creative talent. Vermont's public and private colleges collaborate with entrepreneurs and state government to translate ideas and inventions into successful enterprises.

These successful enterprises create high quality jobs and opportunities for Vermonters while competing in global markets, and drive significant growth in the Vermont economy.

Strong local economies support healthy local communities. A local economy grows stronger as goods and services are increasingly provided by local sources. Vermont agriculture, forest, creative enterprise, retail, tourist and professional sectors prosper in strong local economies.

The growth of Vermont's entrepreneurial culture and the strength of its local economies, when combined with the strengthened physical and social infrastructure, attract a steady stream of creative and innovative businesses and organizations seeking to grow or locate in the state. Vermont, as one of the most rural states in the country, is recognized as a model of economic development initiatives.

Vermont's environmental brand has evolved and the state is a recognized leader in the development of environmental technology and commerce, and hosts a strong sector of companies that produce and sell environmental products and services into the national and world markets.

In a state and country that is aging, young people find dynamic career opportunities and support for entrepreneurial ventures in Vermont's "green" economy, alongside an appealing quality of life.

The state leverages the rich resource of its growing population of older workers creating opportunities for second careers and promoting workplace practices that create productive employment for workers of all ages.

As an E-state Vermont continues to invest to ensure that its communities are connected with the most current technology.

Vermont's commitment to a strong physical and social infrastructure produced:

- an efficient network of public and private transportation and efficient hubs for multi-modal opportunities;
- available and affordable housing for low and middle income families, providing easy and affordable access to their workplace;
- a quality healthcare system that is financially stable and available to all Vermonters.
- A strong childcare and education system that enables and nurtures Vermont's current and future workforce.
- recreational and cultural opportunities that maintain Vermont's quality of life and attract tourists, conventions, and college students, and strengthen Vermont's appeal to new residents and businesses.

The strategic activities of the state that support and enhance economic development are clearly articulated, highly adaptable and nimble, and able to demonstrate direct correlation between activities, investments and desired outcomes.

In addition to being viewed as a good place to live, Vermont has a solid reputation as a place to innovate, learn and invest.

#### DEFINITIONS TO CREATE:

-Strategic Employers

-Government (where used it refers to all levels, federal, state and local)