

February 7, 2022

Ms. Christine Hallquist
Executive Director
Vermont Community Broadband Board

112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Subject: Letter in Support of Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom Grant Application

Dear Ms. Hallquist:

Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) will be applying for grant funding from the Vermont Community Broadband Board to complete additional fiber-optic internet conversions to the underserved and unserved residents in our community. On behalf of the town of Richmond, I am writing this letter in support of their application.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of high quality internet for all Vermonters. In recent years, access to the internet has become a necessity as it provides access to work, education, and many support services. The Town of Richmond will greatly benefit from the fiber-optic internet cables Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom will install should they receive this grant.

Expansion of access to high-speed internet aligns with the following goals in the Richmond Town Plan:

- Allow for and encourage expanded utility infrastructure for three-phase power, high-speed internet and municipal water and wastewater
- Identify opportunities to work with providers to increase internet speed and availability and increase cell service coverage in town

In our long relationship with Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, they have demonstrated that they have the expertise and capability to continue to serve our community. We request that the Vermont Community Broadband Board fully support the grant application and efforts of WCVT by fully funding their grant applications to expand their high-speed fiber network to the unserved and underserved residents in our community.

Sincerely,

Christine Werneke
Richmond Selectboard Chair

CC: Robert Fish, Deputy Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board