



## TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

May 13, 2013

Gunner McCain, Chairman  
Joint CVRPC/CVEDC Committee on Consolidation  
Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission  
29 Main Street, Suite 4  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

RE: Proposed merger of CVRPC and CVEDC

Dear Mr. McCain and Committee members:

The Joint Committee on Consolidation ("COC") has been working on the details of a merger between the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission ("CVRPC") and the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation ("CVEDC") for the past year. The Waitsfield Planning Commission has reviewed your progress through reports from the town's representative to the CVRPC, Mr. Don LaHaye, copies of the minutes from the COC's meetings, and the final report on the proposed merger of the two entities into one commission encompassing both planning and economic development functions.

The original concept of a merger was borne from the legislative "Challenges for Change" initiative under the Douglas Administration to provide cost-savings while integrating missions. However, the COC has admitted that this proposed merger will result in little cost savings.

The Waitsfield Select Board appreciates the efforts of the COC to evaluate this option, but does not support a merger at this time. The Town of Waitsfield benefits tremendously from the planning services rendered by the CVRPC and the partnership the CVRPC offers with the Mad River Valley Planning District. Some of the services involve planning in transportation, emergency services, hazard mitigation, natural resources, cultural and historic resources, and mapping assistance. We are concerned that a new, consolidated committee would dilute the voting power of member towns, and that a merger could compromise or reduce the CVRPC's capacity to deliver these services described above.

We continue to support the work of the CVEDC and the Mad River Chamber of Commerce on economic development. However, we find the merger unnecessary and counter to the intent of the CVRPC in providing member towns assistance in long-term planning.

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The Waitsfield Select Board supports the status quo and opposes the proposal of the Joint CVRPC/CVEDC Committee on Consolidation to merge the two organizations.

Sincerely,



The Waitsfield Select Board  
Paul Hartshorn, Chair  
William Parker, Vice Chair  
Logan Cooke  
Scott Kingsbury  
Chris Pierson

Cc: Susan Sinclair, Executive Director, CVRPC  
Joshua Schwartz, Executive Director, MRVPD