



VERMONT HOUSING and CONSERVATION COALITION

****SAVE THE DATE****

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Thursday, February 23

State House, Montpelier

PLEASE SET ASIDE FEBRUARY 23rd as a day that you and your organization's key supporters will spend in Montpelier talking and advocating in the Legislature on the importance of Vermont Housing and Conservation Board funding for your organization and the communities it serves.

Governor Shumlin has proposed **\$14 MILLION FOR VHCB – a \$1.2 million increase**. With a \$60 million budget deficit, this is a very positive development.

We need members to **TURN OUT IN FULL FORCE** to support his request and show appreciation. Already voices in the Legislature have been raised saying that we don't need to fund conservation when the state needs all available resources to help recover from Irene. As the Governor has proposed, VHCB will play a key role by providing \$2 million over two fiscal years to help homeowners who want buyouts of their destroyed homes, and to towns which seek to convert those parcels to open space and park land.

We need to reaffirm our core message that BOTH conservation and affordable housing are critical economic development investments that must remain a priority as the State meets the challenges of recovery and the fifth consecutive year of budget shortfalls.

Tentative Schedule:

7:30-9 – Breakfast meetings with individual legislators (breakfast sponsored by VHCC)

9-10 – Welcome and meeting with the Governor (confirmed), Lt. Gov (invited) and legislative leadership (confirmed)

10-11 – Meeting with House Natural Resources & Energy Committee

10-11:15 – Joint meeting: Senate Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs and House General, Housing & Military Affairs Committees

11-12:00 – Meeting with House Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources Committee

11-12 – Meeting with Senate Natural Resources Committee

11:15-12:15 – Joint meeting: Senate and House Agriculture Committees

12-1:30 -- Lunch, and throughout the day – Meetings with individual legislators

1:30-2:30 – Ice cream social

Other committees are still in the process of being scheduled. A final agenda and detailed invitation with talking points will follow.

For further information, contact:

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