



**Lake Champlain Regional
Chamber of Commerce**

June 12, 2014

Mayor Miro Weinberger
Room 34
City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Mayor Weinberger,

I am writing on behalf of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce to express my support for the strategies recommended in the Burlington Downtown Housing Strategy Report with the purpose of increasing the amount of market rate housing in Burlington. The Report's finding that there is an "affordability crisis" in Burlington echoes what we have long heard from our members. Young professionals who work in Burlington are unable to find quality, affordable housing with the type of walkable or bikable access to downtown that they see in other, similar communities. Employers have difficulty recruiting employees who would like to live and work in Vermont but who look elsewhere after experiencing housing sticker shock.

In particular, the rental market has become so tight that many dual income families have trouble finding a quality rental unit for a rate that they can afford, much less one that would allow them to begin saving for a future home purchase. These young professionals and their growing families are crucial to the economic development of Burlington and of Vermont as a whole.

The Chamber strongly supports the City in its commitment to developing market rate housing that allows downtown living for the full spectrum of residents, particularly the existing and potential professional workforce that is critical to growing a more robust economy and increasing the quality of life in Burlington and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Katie Taylor
Government Affairs Specialist
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce

