



April 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) is pleased to share our strong support for VGS's request to use dedicated funds for the advancement of a community-scale geothermal energy system at our Windy Ridge development.

In 2023, CHT began a collaboration with VGS exploring community geothermal. With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Geothermal Technologies Office we worked with a team to complete a comprehensive feasibility study, high-level system design, energy modeling, and conduct community engagement events.

We are eager to bring a community geothermal system to Windy Ridge. However, we would not pursue geothermal at this site without the technical expertise and financial support provided by VGS. Their partnership has been essential to getting us to this point, and their continued involvement is critical to moving forward.

This project represents an important opportunity—not only for Windy Ridge, but for the broader effort to decarbonize Vermont's thermal sector. As a nonprofit affordable-housing developer, CHT is committed to reducing our properties' carbon footprint while maintaining affordability for the low-income residents we serve. We've already made significant strides, transitioning many properties from gas-fired heating systems to electric Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs). But we are increasingly aware of the need for more stable, sustainable solutions, especially as we face rising summer temperatures and growing demand for cooling.

Geothermal holds significant promise as a resilient, efficient, and community-scale solution. We hope this project will serve as a model for what's possible in Vermont—and help us learn how to deploy similar systems in future developments.

We urge the Commission to approve VGS's request. This project is the result of careful planning, strategic investment, and a shared commitment to equitable, climate-forward housing. We are ready to move forward—and we hope you'll help make that possible.

Sincerely,

Amy Demetrowitz
Chief Operating Officer

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