



April 15, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Evernorth, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining affordable housing across Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Through partnerships and community investment, we develop high-quality rental homes that serve the region's working families, seniors, and vulnerable populations. As part of our long-standing commitment to energy-efficient and climate-resilient housing, we are actively exploring the use of geothermal systems in new construction projects.

We are writing in strong support of VGS's request to use funds to implement a community geothermal system at the proposed Windy Ridge development in Hinesburg, Vermont. Evernorth is partnering with Champlain Housing Trust on this project, and we are developing 36 units of multi-family affordable rental housing in four buildings on a 2-acre site that is part of a 72-unit development on a roughly 40-acre parcel located in the Hinesburg Neighborhood Development Area—a state-designated growth center. We have been actively involved in the planning and early design phases of this development, including participation in the Department of Energy-funded feasibility study and related technical assessments.

Evernorth would not pursue geothermal for Windy Ridge without VGS's support. The complexity and upfront cost of designing, financing, and maintaining a shared geothermal system are significant—particularly for affordable housing developments with constrained budgets and the need to keep long-term operating costs predictable. VGS's role is essential to making this innovative system feasible and reliable for the long term.

Utilities like VGS are uniquely positioned to help communities overcome the barriers to implementing shared geothermal systems. In many cases, the coordination required among multiple property owners to share costs, oversee construction, and manage long-term billing and maintenance creates insurmountable challenges—especially for nonprofit developers and affordable housing providers. Utilities have long served as trusted stewards of shared energy infrastructure. Their involvement not only simplifies the implementation process but also ensures consistent performance and equitable access to clean thermal energy.

We are enthusiastic about the potential for this project to serve as a model for future community geothermal efforts in Vermont and beyond. We urge the Commission to approve VGS's request, recognizing the thoughtful planning, partnership, and investment that have already gone into making this a reality.

Sincerely,

Matt Moore

Senior Developer

100 Bank Street, Suite 400, Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: 802.863.8424 Fax: 802.660.9034

120 Exchange Street, Suite 600, Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 207.772.8255 Fax: 207.772.8241

evernorthus.org