

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2015

Maria Contreras-Sweet
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Contreras-Sweet:

We are writing in support of the Vermont Small Business Development Center's (VtSBDC) application to the Federal and State Technology Partnership Program (No. FAST 2015-R-0009).

Vermont Small Business Development Center is a statewide program of Vermont Technical College that assists and strengthens established businesses as well as start-up entrepreneurs through one-on-one, confidential, no-cost advising services. For the past 22 years, VtSBDC has leveraged its partnership with government, education and businesses to help create jobs, secure capital, build wealth and grow the Vermont economy.

Technology-based businesses are critical to Vermont's job growth and economy. The FAST grant will help VtSBDC provide vital technical assistance to Vermont companies as they apply for and comply with Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants. VtSBDC's FAST proposal will strengthen the competitiveness of small businesses, as well as improve the participation of small technology firms in the innovation and commercialization of new technology.

Specifically, VtSBDC's FAST advisor will work with businesses to strategize their approach to innovation and SBIR research. Additionally, the FAST advisor will help businesses with commercialization assistance and preparing their pitch in advance of funding. The advisor will travel throughout the region to meet with entrepreneurs to expand technology readiness and capabilities.

We believe this project is well-suited for this grant, and we appreciate you giving the application serious consideration. If we can provide further evidence of our support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely:



PATRICK LEAHY

United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS

United States Senator



PETER WELCH

United States Congressman