

PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY

VERMONT BUSINESSES FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY'S 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



People INVESTING IN THE WORKFORCE

LIVABLE JOBS - Vermont should support the creation of jobs with good pay and good benefits – that's why VBSR supports a responsible increase in the Minimum Wage and the passage of a Paid Family and Medical Leave law.

CHILD CARE – Increasing the affordability and access to child care services is essential to a strong economy. VBSR supports closing the gap in funding for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

Planet GREEN JOBS IN A GREEN STATE

CLIMATE ECONOMY - Vermont should adopt the ESSEX Plan, a clean jobs proposal that uses a rising price on carbon pollution to reduce the state's clean electricity rates.

CLEAN WATER ECONOMY – Vermont's lakes and rivers are among our most valuable natural resources. We support establishing a long-term funding source and comprehensive plan for clean water projects.

Prosperity GROWING THE VERMONT ECONOMY

HEALTH CARE REFORM – Out of control costs are hurting businesses that pay for employee health insurance. Vermont should move to a comprehensive health system, starting by investing in universal primary care.

21st CENTURY WORKFORCE – Vermont's employment laws should be updated to allow more independent contractors to find work with Vermont companies while also protecting the rights of traditional employees.

VBSR

Vermont Businesses
for Social Responsibility

VBSR is a statewide, nonprofit business association with a mission to foster a business ethic in Vermont that recognizes the opportunity and responsibility of the business community to set a high standard for protecting the natural, human, and economic environments of our citizens. www.vbsr.org

Health Care Reform is Economic Development

Health insurance can cost businesses an average of \$15,000 a year per employee. This cost is unsustainable, unfair, and hurts business and workers. Comprehensive health care reform is economic development and the first step in that process is investing in a Universal Primary Care system – one that gives all Vermonters access to a family doctor and uses the power of preventative care to reduce health care costs long-term.

VBSR's State House Team

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The \$1 Billion 'Buy Local' Campaign

THE ESSEX PLAN MOVES VT'S ENERGY MONEY IN-STATE

Vermont can grow the economy and fight climate change by adopting the ESSEX Plan, a proposal that uses the revenues from carbon pollution pricing to slash electricity rates for all Vermonters.

We spend more than \$2 billion each year on fossil fuels – and most of that money goes right outside of Vermont. The ESSEX Plan, first proposed by a group of VBSR business leaders, would stimulate investment in clean energy and efficiency – and keep that money right here in Vermont.



Vermont is a good place to do business - and we can grow the economy by building on those strengths.

GREEN BRAND - Vermont is a leader in growing green jobs in the fields of clean energy and efficiency. More than 19,000 workers are employed in the clean energy sector in Vermont, a growth of nearly 30% since 2013.

PUBLIC INVESTMENTS - Limited economic development dollars should be invested in efforts that can help the whole economy across the state, including making quality child care more affordable or boosting access to high-speed Internet services.

EDUCATION - Vermont has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the country, but too many are not continuing their education. That's why VBSR is a proud supporter of the 70x2025 campaign, which seeks to increase the number of Vermonters with postsecondary degree or other credentials by 30,000 over the next eight years.