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 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.

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.