

**PROCLAMATION to *Stay Safe, Stay Strong, Stay Open!***  
**by the RestartVT Manufacturing Working Group | November 18, 2020**

The 12-member RestartVT Manufacturing Working Group issued a unanimous PROCLAMATION following their November 18, 2020 meeting concerning the ongoing operations of **Vermont's manufacturing, fulfillment and distribution sectors** during the COVID-19 pandemic. The MFG Working Group also asserted that Vermont's manufacturing sector is critical for the state's economic recovery, health and future development.

Recognizing rapidly increasing numbers of COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in Vermont's general population at levels not seen since spring 2020, the VT MFG Working Group committed to proactively advance new action-oriented plans and innovative ideas to support and maintain the excellent health and safety records of Vermont's manufacturing sector.

The MFG Working Group chose to express, through PROCLAMATION, its continuing commitment to strengthen and affirm COVID-19 support and guidance to help minimize and eliminate obstacles to achieving stated outcomes summarized in a new mantra that they have created, ***STAY SAFE, STAY STRONG, STAY OPEN!***

**The RestartVT Manufacturing Working Group PROCLAMATION**

- ***"The VERMONT MANUFACTURING sector is a low risk sector for the spread of COVID-19; and is not a source of the spread of this disease; and***
- ***The VERMONT MANUFACTURING sector is disciplined, has a culture of compliance and controls, and engineers solutions to create safe working environments, including for COVID-19; and***
- ***The VERMONT MANUFACTURING sector consists of companies and organizations with relationships that continuously drive sharing of best practices, solve common problems, and demonstrate a willingness to share solutions in a highly responsive manner."***

**Statement from the RestartVT MFG Working Group:** *"Together, we must do everything possible to keep our manufacturing sector open and operating safely during this time with many challenges. We cannot ignore the fact that manufacturing really matters in Vermont. It annually contributes more than \$3 Billion in total output, contributes over 9.0 % of Vermont's GDP, employs about 30,000 Vermonters, pays about \$1.8 Billion annually in manufacturing wages with good benefits, and that every 1 manufacturing job supports about 4 jobs elsewhere. The VT MFG Working Group understands these realities and its volunteer members have passionately been working hard to protect our manufacturing, fulfillment and distribution sector employees and companies for the benefit of all Vermonters and Vermont's future."*

**Key elements of ACTION PLANS in Development & Deployment by the working Group**

1. Advancing ***"STAY SAFE, STAY STRONG, STAY OPEN!"***
2. Advancing a new wave of COVID-19 Education, Learning and Sharing Opportunities. This will include building on the foundation of the successful *Health Officer Training (HOT)* initiative delivered by VMEC in the summer of 2020 with input and guidance from VOSHA, VT Dept. of Health and VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) and support from the VT Department of Labor. Additionally,

coordinating & delivering a new series of *Free* virtual Forums open all sectors with experts on relevant topics

3. Increasing a regular flow of value-adding information related to successful operations in Vermont's COVID-19 environment
4. Continuing to maintain and grow impactful collaboration and meaningful support opportunities among Vermont-based companies and organizations

#### **About the RestartVT Manufacturing Working Group**

The RestartVT MFG Working Group consists of an appointed group of 12 experienced industry and statewide organization leaders who have agreed to voluntarily represent the manufacturing, fulfillment and distribution sectors of Vermont's economy in support of the reopening efforts by the Governor's Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force formed in early April 2020. The MFG Working Group was instrumental in rapidly creating Vermont's successful 3-Phase Reopening Plan for the three sectors mentioned, enabling all companies that were closed within those sectors since mid-March because of the COVID-19 pandemic to begin reopening on May 4, 2020. The Phased Reopening Plan was effectively executed in a very safe and expeditious manner that also included following written guidelines included in the Plan.

#### **Members of the RestartVT MFG Working Group**

William Shouldice IV, VT Teddy Bear & MFG Working Group Chair	Rob Green, Vermont Precision Tools
Janette Bombardier, Chroma Technology Corp.	Lisa Groeneveld, OnLogic
Chris Carrigan, VT Chamber of Commerce	Jim Mulligan, GlobalFoundries
Ben Clark, Ann Clark, Ltd.	Mike Rainville, Maple Landmark & VT Woodworks Council
William Driscoll, Associated Industries of VT (AIV)	Brenan Riehl, Nolato GW, Inc.
Bob Flint, Springfield RDC, representing all 12 VT RDCs	Bob Zlder, VT Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC)