



Commerce Connection

Business Is Good

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The Way Through is Together



Advocacy News

Chamber Advocacy Influenced Relief Package

Governor Scott introduced a substantial economic relief package that touches businesses in every industry. The relief package addresses much of the need highlighted during [Vermont Chamber advocacy](#). The proposal still requires legislative approval. The Vermont Chamber is pushing for [several changes](#) and is also urging legislative leaders to swiftly advance the relief funds.



[Read more](#)

Chamber President on VPR

“ I challenge Vermont to use this crisis as a once in a lifetime opportunity to think about Vermont as becoming the work-from-home capital of the world. ”



Vermont Chamber President Betsy Bishop on VPR



Vermont Chamber President Betsy Bishop joined Vermont Public Radio for a [conversation](#) on telecommuting during the pandemic and the future of remote work. Work- and learn-from-home obligations brought on by the pandemic have prompted a broader sense of public urgency around broadband access in Vermont. The Vermont Chamber is working with state officials and the congressional delegation to [advocate](#) for the funding necessary to even broadband access across the state.

[Listen to Vermont Edition](#)

[Also, check out Betsy Bishop's op-ed on reimagining Vermont's future](#)

Congressman Welch At Lodging Town Hall

The Vermont Chamber recently hosted a virtual Town Hall with Congressman Peter Welch for the state's lodging industry. More than 80 Vermont lodging proprietors raised legislative *priorities*, including desired changes to the Paycheck Protection Program and unemployment insurance.



[Watch recorded event](#)



Chamber Staff on CAT-TV

Vermont Chamber President Betsy Bishop, Government Affairs Director Charles Martin, and Vice President of Tourism Amy Spear joined CAT-TV in Bennington to talk legislative, business, and tourism updates.

[Watch](#)

North American Rebound

The Vermont Chamber joined the Canadian American Business Council in calling for continued strong cross-border cooperation by signing the *North American Rebound*. Vermont Chamber Vice President of Business Development Chris Carrigan said,

"Now, more than ever, and in the aftermath of this crisis, we will be relying on our strong regional, international, cross-border supply-chain."



[Read more](#)

“ You folks are doing a great job advocating various issues to our state government. We've been members for over 25 years, and the true value of the Chamber is more evident than ever in these times. ”

*Royal and Ned Wilson of Mountaineer Inn
in West Dover, Vermont*



Chamber Member News



Vermont Businesses Helping Communities

The Vermont Chamber has been adding content each week to our page, How Vermont Businesses Are Helping Our Communities.

Recent additions include Vermont Chamber member *Lake Champlain Chocolates* generously donating chocolate hearts to all of the teachers and support staff in Chittenden County, member *Darn Tough* knitting a sock that benefits the Vermont Foodbank, member *Bar Harbor Bank* donating to help adult education programs in Vermont, and more.

[Read more](#)

Steps to Take When Reopening

Below are important steps, outlined by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, for businesses to follow when reopening.

1. [Read this memo](#) to determine if you can reopen.



2. Follow the health and safety protocols included in the memo.
3. Train your employees using [VOSHA online training](#).
4. Create a health screening tool using the state's [pre-screening procedures](#) and [pre-screening health survey](#) as a model.
5. [Post signage](#) around your workplace to remind employees and visitors to practice proper hygiene and screen themselves.
6. Be ready for a case of COVID-19 at your workplace by preparing to respond.
7. [Adopt or create a sector-specific reopening and training plan](#).

[Visit our COVID-19 Resources page](#)



For Manufacturers, An Evolving New Normal

Vermont Digger featured Vermont manufacturing businesses, including Chamber members [Vermont Precision Tools](#) and [Darn Tough](#), in their [recent report](#) on the new normal for the industry. Vermont is currently following [a 3-phased reopening plan](#) for manufacturing, fulfillment, and distribution

enterprises.

[Read more](#)

Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight is [Manufacturing Solutions Inc.](#), a Morrisville-based manufacturer that is an ISO 9001:2015, lean manufacturer, providing electrical and mechanical assembly and sub-assembly production. CAD-based precision material and fabric cutting, and complete fulfillment services including picking, kitting, packing, and shipping.



MSI partners with its clients to transform product ideas into reality, and components into high-quality products, delivered directly to the designated end user.



WELCOME NEW VERMONT CHAMBER MEMBERS

- VT Masks for Good, LLC
- The Boeing Company
- Mystic Cafe & Wine Bar



Learn about [VT Masks for Good](#), [The Boeing Company](#), and [Mystic Cafe & Wine Bar](#).

Visit the [Vermont Chamber membership](#) page for benefits and staff contacts.

Save the Date

The Vermont Chamber is pleased to announce our upcoming “Passport to Recovery: Forging a Way Forward” portal, which will launch in June. This new virtual resource will be dedicated to the Vermont community and host timely webinars to help businesses, employers, and employees across the state. If you have a recorded webinar for us to consider including, please send it to news@vtchamber.com.



#VermontStrong

[Mend Fund Hopes to Help Heal Montpelier's Downtown](#)

[Gordon's Window Decor Donating 25 Masks to Non-Profits for Every 25 Purchased](#)

[Vermont Teddy Bear Wants to Make 125,000 Free Masks](#)

This section is currently featuring news about Vermont Chamber members helping communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Email news@vtchamber.com with your [good news](#).

In Other News

[Gov. Scott: Why We're Launching a Racial Equity Task Force](#)

[Scott Announces Opening of Additional Business Operations](#)

[In New Age of Remote Work, Vt. Businesses Consider Office Space Needs](#)

[Final Reading: Senators Grasp for Revenue Alternatives to Fill Budget Holes](#)

[Vermont Futures Project: Looking Beyond the Horizon](#)

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