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To St. Johnsbury Residents:

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as one of your two Representatives to the General Assembly.

I am assigned to House Energy & Technology committee. My professional background is in building design and energy efficiency, including development of software for modeling energy performance in buildings. Despite familiarity with the subject matter of my committee, there has been an enormous amount to learn — in addition learning about the many other policy areas in bills before the Legislature.

The last two years have been remarkably productive. Last year my committee developed and passed a Broadband Deployment Act, Act 79 (H.513), to empower local communities to roll out high-speed internet to their residents and businesses. It provides a roadmap including funding and financing for towns to band together to form communications union districts. I helped St. Johnsbury join the NEK Community Broadband CUD in March.

As part of the legislative Climate Solutions Caucus last summer, I convened and chaired a series of workshops on ways to increase energy-performance awareness and implementation throughout Vermont's construction industry. Two dozen industry players testified on the need for more education and training and better-aligned incentives to improve compliance with existing energy codes. Based on testimony, I introduced a bill (H.719) and developed recommendations covered in other bills. Work on these has been delayed by the coronavirus crisis.

However, prior to the shutdown, my committee drafted and passed a Global Warming Solutions Act (H.688). The bill is a serious, long-term response to the threats and challenges posed by the human-caused climate crisis. It passed the House with more than two-thirds support, 105-37, and is currently in Senate committee hearings.

During the shutdown, the committee is refocusing on broadband. Specifically we are working on strategies both for rapid deployment to unserved and underserved households, and for accelerating delivery within the next few years of truly high-speed broadband internet throughout Vermont.

After recovering from my own bout of possible covid-19 in late March (though tested negative), I advocated aggressively for local interests when the Department of Corrections moved 27 covid-positive inmates to the St. Johnsbury Correctional Facility, and again when the State Colleges Chancellor proposed closing NVU-Lyndon.

Besides legislative matters, I serve on the boards of Catamount Arts and Rural Edge, on the town Energy Committee, and as (currently informal) alternate town representative to NEK Community Broadband. I also participate in town Housing and Economic Restructuring committees and the Rotary Club when possible.

All of these efforts are part of what I believe is critical to rebuilding prosperity in St. Johnsbury, the NEK, and Vermont. I believe the role of government is to help create the conditions for individuals, communities and businesses to thrive. We must make the investments in infrastructure (broadband, energy, housing), services (education, health care), and amenities (recreation, arts) that bring jobs to attract and retain the next generation of Vermonters. Especially as we cope with the covid crisis, we must

ensure public funds are not wasted. But I believe a singular focus on reducing those funds is short-sighted and misguided. Our problem is not so much tax RATES as it is tax BASE. We need working-age families, and they need a foundation upon which to build their lives.

I am seeking re-election as your Representative so I can continue to work on these vital issues in the Statehouse. It doesn't look like door-to-door campaigning will be possible this year, but I hope to arrange regular "coffee hours" to meet with you and hear your thoughts and concerns. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me at scott@CampbellForVermont.com, or (802) 595-5580.