



P.O. Box 180
Grafton, VT 05146

August 21, 2025

Dear Grafton Selectboard:

Every year, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) asks each of the 27 towns we serve in the Windham region to support long-term regional economic strategy and program development by funding Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS). In 2025, 21 communities, representing 82% of Windham region residents, voted to support the SeVEDS municipal funding effort, resulting in an investment of over \$110,000 in regional planning and economic initiatives.

SeVEDS is a grassroots organization formed in 2007 based on the realization that no single town can influence major economic indicators acting alone. Through SeVEDS, BDCC is able to foster an approach to economic development that is proactive, long-term and regional.

SeVEDS led creation of the area's first federally recognized regional plan for economic development: the Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). We update the plan yearly through CEDS Project submissions, highlighting important local initiatives. Working with state, federal, regional and philanthropic partners, BDCC attracts resources that move local projects forward, helping towns collaborate to build a more vibrant, resilient economy. The 2024 SoVermont Zone CEDS was approved by the EDA in June of 2025. See it at www.sovermontzone.com/ceds.

By leveraging municipal funding for SeVEDS, BDCC has been able to launch innovative, responsive programs including high school career education, business relief and small business lending, and new Vermonter initiatives. It has also launched programs that serve communities directly like the USDA-funded Southern Vermont Economy Project (SVEP). Through these programs, we provide towns and community organizations one-on-one help, group training, project-specific grants, and help accessing resources.

We ask every town in the Windham Region to contribute towards regional economic development efforts at the rate of \$3.00 per person. This year, we are asking the Town of Grafton to fund BDCC at \$1,935 (based on a population of 645 people per the 2020 U.S. Census data), to support continued implementation of SeVEDS efforts in FY2026. This is the same amount we requested last year, based on the 2020 Census population. In the past you have included this funding request in a



separate article at Town Meeting. We are hoping that the Select Board might consider adding the request once again this year.

We will follow up to schedule a time to meet with your Selectboard to answer questions regarding this funding request, and to provide updates on regional programs and projects. This year, we are also including a short Selectboard Engagement Survey to better understand your town's priorities. The survey can be completed online, by email, or in hard copy. When we meet with your board, we will ask more about areas where regional collaboration could be beneficial. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Grinold", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Grinold
Executive Director
Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
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