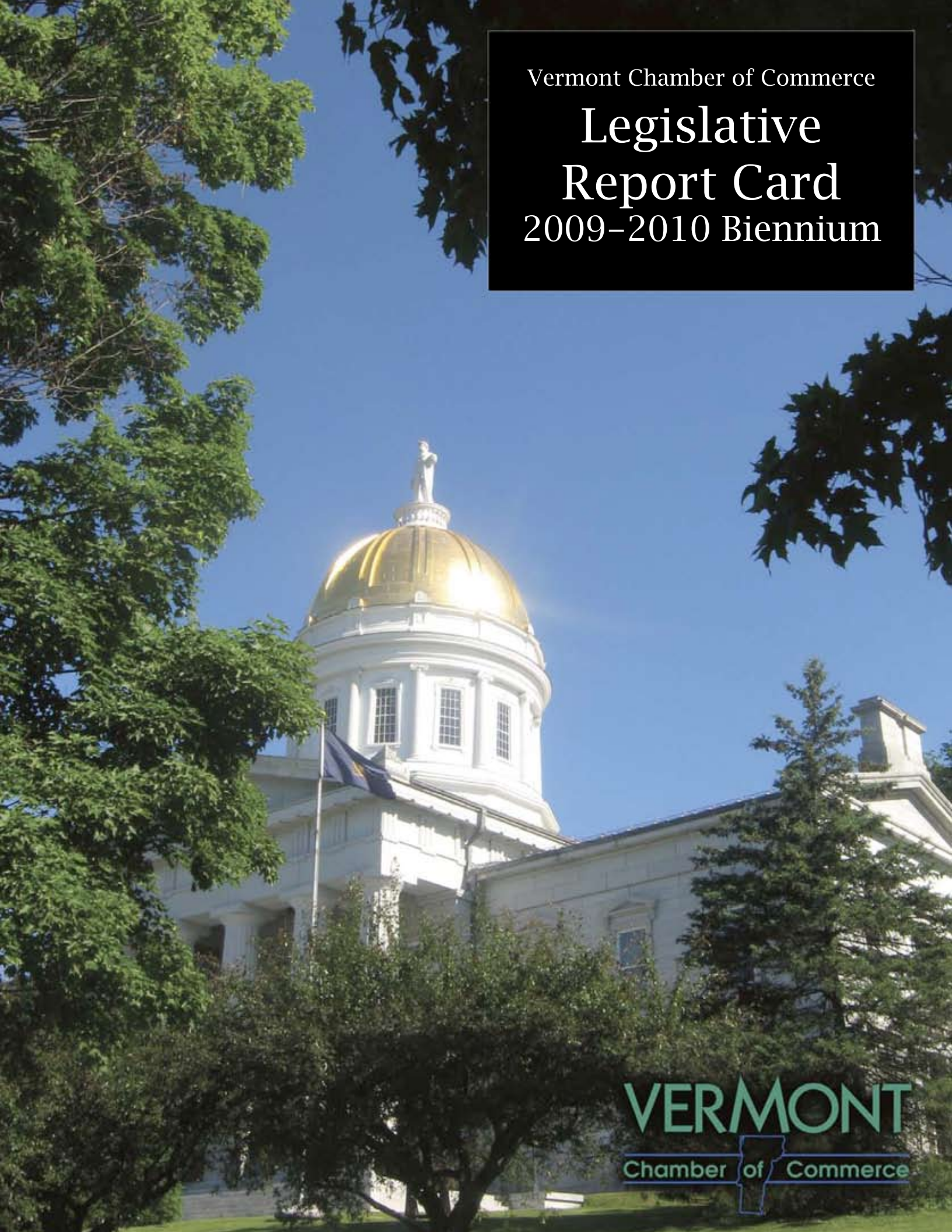
Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Report Card

2009–2010 Biennium



VERMONT Chamber of Commerce

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce 2009-2010 Legislative Report Card

How to Use the Vermont Chamber Report Card

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Vermont's leading business organization, has prepared this Legislative Report Card to highlight legislators' voting records on issues that increase jobs and economic opportunities for Vermonters. This means supporting a strong economic base that allows Vermont's citizens, businesses, and municipalities to exist in a mutually rewarding environment.

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has selected these votes based on our legislative priorities as developed by our Board of Directors, Government Affairs Committee, and positions as indicated by our members in opinion surveys. Each one of these issues impacts Vermont's businesses on many levels. The Vermont Chamber Report Card can be used to learn how legislators voted on job and economic opportunity issues, and at the same time, provide a snapshot of legislative issues for this past biennium. The action you take after reviewing this Report Card is of critical importance.

We encourage you to discuss these issues with your senators and representatives. Let them know that their work on improving our economy and creating jobs is appreciated. If they are not supportive, ask them why.

For more information on the bills and the votes included in the Vermont Chamber Report Card, contact the Vermont Chamber VP for Public Affairs at 802-223-3443, or go to the legislative website at http://www.leg.state.vt.us

How the Votes Were Selected

We included roll call votes on bills important to the Vermont Chamber and our members. When there was more than one roll call vote on a particular bill, we included the vote that provides the most information about legislators' positions on these issues. In some instances, more than one vote on an issue has been selected. Factors that were considered include whether the vote was on the substance of a bill or a procedural issue and which vote had the most significant effect on the final outcome.

How the Scores Were Calculated

The scores were calculated by dividing the number of votes on economic issues by the number of votes cast by that representative or senator. Absences were not counted in the final score.

Chamber Champions!

In releasing the Vermont Chamber Report Card, we recognize that roll call votes are not taken on every issue, and much of the important legislative work is done through the committee process and behind the scenes. Therefore, the Vermont Chamber gives special recognition to the legislators who played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome on critical issues for the Vermont Chamber. We recognize these legislators as "Chamber Champions" who worked hard to promote the Vermont economy and job creation.

Table of Contents

How to Use the Report Card	Page 2
Senate Vote Explanations	Pages 3-4
Senate Report Card	Page 5
House Vote Explanations	Pages 6-8
House Report Card	Pages 9-13
"Vermont Chamber Champions"	Pages 14-16

SENATE VOTES EXPLAINED: 2009

1) **2009 JOBS BILL - H313:** The amendment created a Research and Development Tax Credit in Vermont. The Vermont Chamber supported the creation of the credit as a measure to encourage more R&D and job creation by Vermont businesses. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 13-12

2) **Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill - H.441:** This was a vote on whether or not to override Governor Douglas's veto of the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill. There were segments of the bill the Vermont Chamber could support, however the bill contained unacceptable increases in the capital gains and estate taxes with other provisions leading to overall opposition to the bill. The Vermont Chamber supported the Governor's veto. **A "no" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Opposed Results: Passed, 23-5

3) **Miscellaneous Tax Bill - H.442:** roll call vote was on an amendment to remove the increases to the Capital Gains Tax and the proposed Personal Income Tax reductions. The Vermont Chamber has long opposed these tax increases and strongly opposed the Capital Gains increases because of the impact on business investment. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Failed, 9-21

4) **Relating to Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - H.446:** This amendment attempted to assure that the Public Service Board consider rate impacts when reviewing projects being proposed under the "cost of production" based pricing established in this bill. The bill requires the utilities to buy the power at above market rates, and pass such costs on to customers. The Vermont Chamber supports renewable energy and in-state production, and supported this amendment which sought to protect Vermonters and Vermont businesses from potentially higher electric rates. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Failed, 11-13

SENATE VOTES EXPLAINED: 2010

5) **Relating to the Solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund - S.290:** This is a vote on the passage of the bill to restore solvency to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The bill contains increases in unemployment insurance taxes on employers together with unemployment insurance benefits modifications to reduce costs to the fund. While the Vermont Chamber would have preferred even greater balance in the bill, it was critical to get a bill passed this year to avoid even greater costs to employers from federal unemployment tax increases and long term borrowing. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 26-0

6) **The 2010 Jobs Bill - S.288:** The bill contains several measures to support economic development and tourism including additional resources for the Vermont Economic Development Authority, additional tourism funding, restored funding for the Vermont Training Program and more. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 28-0

7) **2010 Miscellaneous Tax Bill - H.783:** This bill contained a roll back of the Capital Gains Tax increases passed the year before. Like any miscellaneous bill, there were elements of the bill that were not favorable but the roll back of the Capital Gains increases was a top issue for the Vermont Chamber leading to our overall support. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 22-7

8) **Related to renewable energy - H.781:** This bill contains language defining Hydro Quebec as "renewable energy" paving the way for Vermont to finalize contract negotiations with Hydro Quebec resulting in a long term, base power source at competitive prices. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 30-0

9) **Relating to the continued operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station - S.289:** This amendment sought to have the so-called "Yankee closure" bill reviewed by the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. Such review would have enabled a more in depth analysis of the potential economic impacts of closing the facility, the likely impacts on jobs, electric rates and state tax revenues. At the time of this vote, there was no apparent urgency in moving to final Senate action on the underlying bill. The Vermont Chamber supports re-licensing Vermont Yankee if it is deemed safe because it is a low cost, reliable, in-state, base power source of electricity for Vermonters and Vermont businesses and a provider of high paying, stable jobs. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Failed, 6-24

Senate Report Card

Roll Call Votes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Chamber Position	**Y**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	
Sen.Timothy Ashe (D-Chittenden)	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	N	Y	N	25%
Sen. Claire Ayer (D-Addison)	A	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	57%
Sen. Susan Bartlett (D-Lamoille)	A	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	57%
Sen. Randy Brock (R-Franklin)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Sen. John Campbell (D-Windsor)	P	Y	N	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	57%
Sen. Bill Carris (D-Rutland)	N	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	50%
Sen. Mathew Choate (D-Caledonia)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	56%
Sen. Ann Cummings (D-Washington)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Sen. William Doyle (R-Washington)	A	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N	86%
Sen. Edward Flanagan (D-Chittenden)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	44%
Sen. Margaret Flory (R-Rutland)	❖	❖	❖	❖	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Sen. Harold Giard (D-Addison)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	N	63%
Sen. Robert Hartwell (D-Bennington)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	33%
Sen. Vincent Illuzzi (R-Essex-Orleans)	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	86%
Sen. Jane Kitchel (D-Caledonia)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	56%
Sen. Sara Kittell (D-Franklin)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	67%
Sen. Virginia Lyons (D-Chittenden)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Sen. Mark MacDonald (D-Orange)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	33%
Sen. Hull Maynard (R-Rutland)	Y	N	Y	Y	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	100%
Sen. Richard Mazza (D-Grand Isle)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Sen. Richard McCormack (D-Windsor)	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	N	Y	N	25%
Sen. Hinda Miller (D-Chittenden)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	78%
Sen. Kevin Mullin (R-Rutland)	Y	N	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	100%
Sen. Alice Nitka (D-Windsor)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	67%
Sen. Douglas Racine (D-Chittenden)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	56%
Sen. Phillip Scott (R-Washington)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Sen. Richard Sears (D-Bennington)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	44%
Sen. Peter Shumlin (D-Windham)	A	Y	N	A	Y	A	Y	Y	N	43%
Sen. Diane Snelling (R-Chittenden)	N	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	50%
Sen. Robert Starr (D-Essex-Orleans)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	78%
Sen. Jeanette White (D-Windham)	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	44%

Results Key	Senate Issues Key	
Y Vote yes	**1** 2009 Jobs Bill	**6** 2010 Jobs Bill
N Vote no	**2** 2010 Appropriations Bill	**7** 2010 Misc. Tax Bill
A Absent for vote	**3** 2009 Misc. Tax Bill	**8** 2010 Renewable Energy
❖ Not a member of the Senate at that time	**4** 2009 Renewable Energy	**9** Vermont Yankee
P Presiding	**5** Unemployment Trust Fund	

HOUSE VOTES EXPLAINED: 2009

1) **Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Bill - H.441:** This was a vote on whether or not to override Governor Douglas's veto of the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill. There were segments of the bill the Vermont Chamber could support, however the bill contained unacceptable increases in the capital gains and estate taxes with other provisions leading to overall opposition to the bill. The Vermont Chamber supported the Governor's veto. **A "no" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position**

   Vermont Chamber position: Opposed Results: Passed, 100-50

2) **Miscellaneous Tax Bill - H.442:** This roll call vote proposed to shorten from 18 months to 6 months the period that estate tax increases would be retroactive. The longer period would affect the inheritance of Vermonters whose family member had died long ago. A "yes" vote would shorten the period. The Vermont Chamber opposed any increase in or retroactivity of the estate tax. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Failed, 52-92

3) **The decommissioning of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant - H.436:** This bill would have required Vermont Yankee to dramatically increase the size of its decommissioning fund and return the site to "green field" status immediately upon cessation of electricity generation. Both provisions were contrary to conditions of the plant's existing, state-approved operating license. At issue was the sanctity of existing, approved state permits. Further, the increased fund requirement also jeopardized the continued operation of the plant, which could have eliminated several thousand jobs and lead to an increase in electric rates. **A "no" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Opposed* Results: Passed, 93-46

   * The bill was later vetoed by the Governor

4) **Relating to Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - H.446:** The bill set "cost of production" based prices for smaller, in-state renewable energy sources which were well above market rates and also higher than the cost of renewable energy from commercial scale projects. The bill required the utilities to buy the power at these elevated prices, and pass such costs on to customers. The Vermont Chamber supports renewable energy and in-state production; we were unsuccessful in gaining support for a provision to require the Public Service Board to consider rate impacts when reviewing these projects. This program creates upward pressure on electricity rates throughout the state leaving Vermonters and Vermont business potentially exposed to higher electric rates. **A "no" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

   Vermont Chamber position: Opposed Results: Passed, 88-44

HOUSE VOTES EXPLAINED: 2010

5a) **Relating to the Solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund-S.290:** This amendment would have eliminated the one-week waiting period. The Vermont Chamber supported adding back this provision eliminated in 2000, making Vermont one only of 12 states without a one-week waiting period. This amendment would have upset the tenuous balance in the bill between increased employer taxes and adjustments to benefits. **A "no" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position on this amendment.**

Vermont Chamber position: Opposed Results: Failed, 24-113

5b) **Relating to the Solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund - S.290:** This is a vote on the passage of the bill to restore solvency to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The bill contains increases in unemployment insurance taxes on employers together with reforms in unemployment insurance benefits to reduce costs to the fund. While the Vermont Chamber would have preferred even greater balance in the bill, it was critical to get a bill passed this year to avoid even greater tax increases from federal unemployment tax increases and long term borrowing**. A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 133-9

6) **The 2010 Jobs Bill - S.288:** The bill contains several measures to support economic development including additional resources for the Vermont Economic Development Authority, additional tourism funding, restored funding for the Vermont Training Program and more. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 139-1

7) **2010 Miscellaneous Tax Bill - H.783:** Among other actions, this amendment would have prevented Vermont manufacturers, farmers and other producers from fully realizing a federal tax credit related to the cost of production of goods by US employers. The amendment would have put Vermont businesses at a competitive disadvantage with those in other states. **A "no" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

Vermont Chamber position: Opposed* Results: Passed, 92-49

*The final bill did not contain this provision.

8) **Related to renewable energy- H.781:** This bill contains language defining hydroelectric power produced by Hydro Quebec as "renewable" energy paving the way for Vermont to finalize contract negotiations with Hydro Quebec resulting in a long term, base power source at competitive prices. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Passed, 129-3

9) **Relating to Menu Labeling-S.88:** This amendment to a comprehensive health care bill relates to a narrow issue of menu labeling to address obesity. The amendment would have eliminated new state menu labeling requirements. The Vermont Chamber opposed a state menu labeling law because it is duplicative of new federal menu labeling requirements taking effect six to nine months after the state law takes effect, creating additional costs and regulations specific to Vermont businesses. **A "yes" vote supported the Vermont Chamber position.**

Vermont Chamber position: Support Results: Failed, 36-98

House Report Card

Roll Call Votes	1	2	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	8	9	
Chamber Position	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	
Rep. Joe Acinapura (R-Brandon)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Steven C. Adams (R-Hartland)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	A	Y	100%
Rep. David M. Ainsworth (R-Royalton)	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	Y	N	A	Y	100%
Rep. Janet Ancel (D-Calais)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Margaret Andrews (D-Rutland City)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	50%
Rep. William N. Aswad (D-Burlington)	Y	A	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	A	N	43%
Rep. Kenneth W. Atkins (D-Winooski)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Albert C. Audette (D-So. Burlington)	Y	N	N	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	25%
Rep. Joseph Baker (R-W. Rutland)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Clement Bissonnette (D-Winooski)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Charles W. Bohi (D-Hartford)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50%
Rep. Bill Botzow (D-Pownal)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Carolyn Branagan (R-)Georgia	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	80%
Rep. Christopher A. Bray (D-New Haven)	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	33%
Rep. Patrick M. Brennan (R-Colchester)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Cynthia M. Browning (D-Arlington)	Y	N	A	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	44%
Rep. Mollie S. Burke (P-Brattleboro)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	30%
Rep. William Canfield (R-Fair Haven)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Margaret Cheney (D-Norwich)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Gregory S. Clark (R-Vergennes)	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	Y	N	A	Y	100%
Rep. Alison Clarkson (D-Woodstock)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. John J. Clerkin (R-Hartford)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	90%
Rep. James Condon (D-Colchester)	Y	N	Y	A	A	Y	A	Y	A	A	20%
Rep. Chip Conquest (D-Newbury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Michel Consejo (D-Sheldon)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas (D-Bradford)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Timothy R. Corcoran (D-Bennington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Gail Courcelle (D-Rutland City)	Y	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Rep. Howard T. Crawford (R-Burke)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	89%
Rep. Susan Davis (P-Washington)	Y	N	Y	A	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	33%
Rep. David L. Deen (D-Westminster)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%

Results Key	House Issues Key	
Y Vote yes	**1** 2009 Appropriations Bill	**5b** UI Trust Fund Bill
N Vote no	**2** 2009 Misc. Tax Bill	**6** 2010 Jobs Billl
A Absent for vote	**3** Yankee Decommissioning Fund	**7** 2010 Misc. Tax Bill
❖ Not a member of the House at that time	**4** 2009 Renewable Energy	**8** 2010 Renewable Energy Bill
P Presiding	**5a** UI Trust Fund Amendment	**9** Menu Labeling
* Due to the lack of votes, no % available		

House Report Card

Roll Call Votes	1	2	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	8	9	
Chamber Position	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	
Rep. Dennis Devereux (R-Mount Holly)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	A	Y	100%
Rep. Lynn Dickinson (R-St. Albans)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Andrew Donaghy (R-Poultney)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Anne Donahue (R-Northfield)	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	80%
Rep. Joey Donovan (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	44%
Rep. Sarah Edwards (P-Brattleboro)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	20%
Rep. Alice M. Emmons (D-Springfield)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Debbie G. Evans (D-Essex)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Peter J. Fagan (R-Rutland City)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Michael Fisher (D-Lincoln)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Margaret Flory (R-Pittsford)	N	Y	N	A	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	100%
Rep. William Frank (D-Underhill)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Patsy French (D-Randolph)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Eldred French (D-Shrewsbury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Frank Geier (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	N	A	A	57%
Rep Gary Gilbert (D-Fairfax)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Maxine Grad (D-Moretown)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	A	A	Y	N	38%
Rep. Adam Greshin (I-Warren)	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	70%
Rep. Sandy Haas (P-Rochester)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	20%
Rep. Helen Head (D- South Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	N	44%
Rep. Marth Heath (D-Westford)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Robert G. Helm (R-Castleton)	N	Y	N	N	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	86%
Rep. Mark A. Higley (R-Lowell)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Mary Hooper (D-Montpelier)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Adam Howard (R-Cambridge)	❖	❖	❖	❖	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	83%
Rep. Steve Howard (D-Rutland City)	Y	N	Y	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	22%
Rep. Richard Howrigan (D-Fairfield)	Y	Y	N	A	N	Y	Y	Y	A	N	63%
Rep. Richard W. Hube (R-Londonderry)	N	Y	A	N	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	100%
Rep. Ronald Hubert (R-Milton)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Timothy Jerman (D-Essex Junction)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. William Jewett (D-Ripton)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	44%

Results Key	House Issues Key	
Y Vote yes	**1** 2009 Appropriations Bill	**5b** UI Trust Fund Bill
N Vote no	**2** 2009 Misc. Tax Bill	**6** 2010 Jobs Billl
A Absent for vote	**3** Yankee Decommissioning Fund	**7** 2010 Misc. Tax Bill
❖ Not a member of the House at that time	**4** 2009 Renewable Energy	**8** 2010 Renewable Energy Bill
P Presiding	**5a** UI Trust Fund Amendment	**9** Menu Labeling
* Due to the lack of votes, no % available		

House Report Card

Roll Call Votes	1	2	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	8	9	
Chamber Position	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	
Rep. William Johnson (R-Canaan)	N	Y	N	N	A	A	Y	N	N	A	86%
Rep. Mitzi Johnson (D-South Hero)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Kathy Keenan (D-St. Albans City)	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	60%
Rep. Duncan F. Kilmartin (R-Newport City)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Warren Kitzmiller (D-Montpelier)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Tony Klein (D-East Montpelier)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Tom Koch (R-Barre Town)	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	78%
Rep. Patti Komline (R-Dorset)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	90%
Rep. Joseph L. Krawczyk (R-Bennington)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	60%
Rep. Bob Krebs (D-South Hero)	❖	❖	❖	❖	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	67%
Rep. Diane Lanpher (D-Vergennes)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Leigh B. Larocque (R-Barnet)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	80%
Rep. Mark Larson (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Richard Lawrence (R-Lyndon)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Joan Lenes (D-Shelburne)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Lucy Leriche (D-Hardwick)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Robert Lewis (R-Derby)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	90%
Rep. William J. Lippert (D-Hinesburg)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	44%
Rep. Jason Lorber (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	33%
Rep. Terence Macaig (D-Williston)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	30%
Rep. Steven B. Maier (D-Middlebury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. John W. Malcolm (D-Pawlet)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Ann Manwaring (D-Wilmington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Michael J. Marcotte (R-Coventry)	N	Y	A	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Richard Marek (D-Newfane)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Cynthia Martin (D-Springfield)	Y	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Rep. Linda J. Martin (D-Wolcott)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	50%
Rep. James W. Masland (D-Thetford)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Norman H. McAllister (R-Highgate)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. James M. McCullough (D-Williston)	Y	N	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	N	25%
Rep. Patricia A. McDonald (R-Berlin)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	90%

Results Key	
Y	Vote yes
N	Vote no
A	Absent for vote
❖	Not a member of the House at that time
P	Presiding
*	Due to the lack of votes, no % available

House Issues Key			
1	2009 Appropriations Bill	**5b**	UI Trust Fund Bill
2	2009 Misc. Tax Bill	**6**	2010 Jobs Billl
3	Yankee Decommissioning Fund	**7**	2010 Misc. Tax Bill
4	2009 Renewable Energy	**8**	2010 Renewable Energy Bill
5a	UI Trust Fund Amendment	**9**	Menu Labeling

House Report Card

Roll Call Votes	1	2	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	8	9	
Chamber Position	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	
Rep. Francis McFaun (R-Barre Town)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	70%
Rep. James L. McNeil (R-Rutland Town)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Virginia Milkey (D-Brattleboro)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	30%
Rep. Alice Miller (D-Shaftsbury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Sue Minter (D-Waterbury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Mark Mitchell (D-Barnard)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y	N	33%
Rep. Ann H. Mook (D-Bennington)	Y	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Rep. John Moran (D-Wardsboro)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	30%
Rep. John S. Morley (R-Barton)	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	A	A	Y	A	100%
Rep. Mary A. Morrissey (R-Bennington)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	80%
Rep. Michael Mrowicki (D-Putney)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Linda K. Myers (R-Essex)	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	90%
Rep. Floyd Nease (D-Johnson)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Betty A. Nuovo (D-Middlebury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Anne O'Brien (D-Richmond)	Y	N	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Rep. Patricia O'Donnell (R-Vernon)	N	Y	N	N	A	A	Y	N	A	A	100%
Rep. Michael Obuchowski (D-Rockingham)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Oliver K. Olsen (R-Jamaica)	❖	❖	❖	❖	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	83%
Rep. Scott A. Orr (D-Charlotte)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	A	A	Y	N	38%
Rep. Carolyn Partridge (D-Windham)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Chuck Pearce (R-Richford)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Janice L. Peaslee (R-Guildhall)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	A	Y	100%
Rep. Kathy D. Pellett (D-Chester)	Y	P	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	38%
Rep. Peter Peltz (D-Woodbury)	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Rep. Peter E. Perley (R-Enosburg)	N	Y	A	N	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Paul N. Poirier (D-Barre City)	Y	N	A	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	25%
Rep. David Potter (D-Clarendon)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	30%
Rep. Ann Pugh (D-South Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	44%
Rep. Kesha K. Ram (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	30%
Rep. Gerald W. Reis (R-St. Johnsbury)	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	A	Y	89%
Rep. John S. Rodgers (D-Glover)	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	50%
Rep. Brian K. Savage (R-Swanton)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%

Results Key	House Issues Key	
Y Vote yes	**1** 2009 Appropriations Bill	**5b** UI Trust Fund Bill
N Vote no	**2** 2009 Misc. Tax Bill	**6** 2010 Jobs Billl
A Absent for vote	**3** Yankee Decommissioning Fund	**7** 2010 Misc. Tax Bill
❖ Not a member of the House at that time	**4** 2009 Renewable Energy	**8** 2010 Renewable Energy Bill
P Presiding	**5a** UI Trust Fund Amendment	**9** Menu Labeling
* Due to the lack of votes, no % available		

House Report Card

Roll Call Votes	1	2	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	8	9	
Chamber Position	**N**	**Y**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	**N**	**Y**	**Y**	
Rep. Heidi E. Scheuermann (R-Stowe)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	A	Y	100%
Rep. Ernest W. Shand (D-Weathersfield)	Y	N	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	44%
Rep. David Sharpe (D-Bristol)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Butch Shaw (R-Pittsford)	❖	❖	❖	❖	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Megan M. Smith (D-Mendon)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Shap Smith (D-Morristown)	Y	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	*
Rep. Robert South (D-St. Johnsbury)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	40%
Rep. Kristy Spengler (D-Colchester)	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	44%
Rep. William Stevens (I-Shoreham)	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	56%
Rep. Tom Stevens (D-Waterbury)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Donna Sweaney (D-Windsor)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Tess Taylor (D-Barre)	Y	A	Y	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	25%
Rep. George Till (D-Jericho)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Kitty Toll (D-Danville)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Lawrence Townsend (D-Randolph)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	44%
Rep. Ira Trombley (D-Grand Isle)	Y	A	A	A	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	*
Rep. Donald H. Turner (R-Milton)	N	Y	N	A	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Linda Waite-Simpson (D-Essex)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Kate Webb (D-Shelburne)	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	A	43%
Rep. Richard A. Westman (R-Cambridge)	N	Y	A	A	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	*
Rep. Rachel Weston (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	30%
Rep. Scott Wheeler (R-Derby)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	A	N	89%
Rep. Jeff Wilson (D-Manchester)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	40%
Rep. Phillip C. Winters (R-Williamstown)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	100%
Rep. Suzi Wizowaty (D-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	33%
Rep. Kurt Wright (R-Burlington)	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	A	N	Y	N	89%
Rep. Jeff Young (D-St. Albans)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	N	44%
Rep. John Zenie (D-Colchester)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	56%
Rep. David E. Zuckerman (P-Burlington)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	A	A	25%

Results Key	House Issues Key	
Y Vote yes	**1** 2009 Appropriations Bill	**5b** UI Trust Fund Bill
N Vote no	**2** 2009 Misc. Tax Bill	**6** 2010 Jobs Billl
A Absent for vote	**3** Yankee Decommissioning Fund	**7** 2010 Misc. Tax Bill
❖ Not a member of the House at that time	**4** 2009 Renewable Energy	**8** 2010 Renewable Energy Bill
P Presiding	**5a** UI Trust Fund Amendment	**9** Menu Labeling
* Due to the lack of votes, no % available		

2009 – 2010 Vermont Chamber Champions

Vermont Chamber of Commerce Legislative Report Card

The Vermont Chamber extends its gratitude to the legislators with high marks, for these individuals are our base supporters, without whom we couldn't accomplish our agenda. We also recognize that much of the legislative work needed to support the Vermont Chamber's agenda is done behind the scenes and in committee. Therefore, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce gives special recognition to the legislators highlighted below who played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome on issues critical for the business community.

Senator Vincent Illuzzi (R-Essex/Orleans), Chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs: Senator Illuzzi continually demonstrates leadership in the Senate on all of the major business issues, championing the Vermont Chamber's agenda over the last biennium. With more than $17 million of unallocated federal stimulus funds pouring into the state over the last two years, Senator Illuzzi heeded the Vermont Chamber's call to use these funds for economic development purposes. The Senator was instrumental in developing major Jobs Bills in both sessions, which established an entrepreneurs' seed capital fund, provided funding for low interest VEDA loans, increased tourism funding and workforce training dollars, and focused on broadband deployment. Additionally, Senator Illuzzi successfully kept the pressure on the 2010 Legislature to pass a comprehensive, balanced solution for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund crisis, staking out a politically unpopular position. Senator Illuzzi was the only committee chair willing to debate the Unemployment Trust Fund issue and move a bill forward at a time when most other leaders could not find common ground, recognizing that a failure to act this session would result in even greater costs to Vermont employers and may have resulted in even more difficult choices regarding tax increases and benefit adjustments. Without his pressure, it is unlikely there would have been action on Vermont's growing Unemployment Trust Fund crisis this past session.

Senator Susan Bartlett (D-Lamoille), Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations: With the Legislature facing a pending deficit of $150 million in January 2010, as Appropriations Chair, Senator Bartlett accomplished the monumental task of balancing the budget, as she has consistently done for many years. As part of her fiduciary responsibility to the state, she also has been the point person in the State House for continued support of tourism marketing promotion. Representing Lamoille County, a district heavily populated with tourism related businesses and individuals with careers in hospitality, in the recent biennium Senator Bartlett was one of too few legislators who understood the value of this vital economic sector to Vermont's overall economy and the state's revenue outlook. The Vermont Chamber will miss Senator Bartlett's commitment to the tourism and business agenda.

Senator Dick Mazza (D-Grand Isle), Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation; Vice Chair, Committee on Institutions and Member of Committee on Committees: As a member of the Committee on Committees, Senator Mazza is in a unique position to control the agenda of the entire Senate and work behind the scenes to ensure that the outcome of Senate legislation is balanced. This approach was demonstrated in the debate on S. 99, a bill amending Act 250. Senator Mazza worked behind the scenes to convince a majority of senators that the latest proposal on this bill was clearly not balanced and therefore needed to be tabled until further notice. His contribution has been key in achieving success for the Vermont Chamber's business agenda. Senator Mazza's bipartisan approach to leadership has been a moderating influence in the Senate on many issues and epitomizes the title, Chamber Champion.

Senator Doug Racine (D-Chittenden), Chair, Health and Welfare; Member Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs: In 2009, the Douglas Administration put forth a proposal to institute a Vermont research and development tax credit. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives chose not to endorse this concept, and when the subject came before the Economic Development Committee, it was met with skepticism there as well. Initially, Senator Racine questioned the efficacy of such a proposal, but after listening to testimony of Vermont Chamber businesses who explained how such a proposal could help create more jobs, especially in the technology sector, Senator Racine championed this issue even when the full Senate was not likely to support it. He pushed this proposal through in 2009 and it subsequently became law. Additionally, Senator Racine has demonstrated the ability to understand business issues. This was evident in the controversial debate in the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare where the Vermont Chamber opposed a state-specific mandate for menu labeling when a federal law preempting all state regulation of chain restaurant brands was on the verge of passage (and in fact became law within a few weeks after the bill left Senator Racine's committee). By relating the debate to his own business, the Senator demonstrated understanding of the efforts and expense required when a small business operates a franchise.

Senator Hinda Miller (D-Chittenden), Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations: As the Vice Chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee, Senator Miller teamed up with Senator Illuzzi on the 2009 and 2010 Jobs Bills recognizing the need to disburse unallocated federal stimulus funds for job creation and economic development. Senator Miller is credited with spearheading the effort to establish the Entrepreneur's Seed Capital Fund in 2009 and continuing that support through an additional appropriation in 2010. In another demonstration of pro-business support, Senator Miller urged the Senate Finance Committee to roll back the 2009 capital gains tax and estate tax hikes to allow for those funds to be reinvested by business for greater job creation. While that committee did not heed her recommendation, her tireless support for this key Vermont Chamber agenda item paid off in the end when this roll back was ultimately passed in the final days of the 2010 session.

Representative Shap Smith (D-Morristown), Speaker of the House: Speaker Smith's first term as the point person for the House agenda was marked with heated debates on all the key issues including Vermont Yankee, tax policy, unemployment insurance and the budget. While it is anticipated that the Speaker would have opposition from the minority party, he also learned to deftly create a moderate course from the many factions within his own party. Allowing modifications in unemployment benefits to occur in order to achieve a balanced approach to this difficult crisis was a key factor in earning the title of Vermont Chamber Champion. He also demonstrated pragmatism in allowing the roll back of the capital gains tax and the estate tax to pass, over the objections of many in his caucus, in order to achieve a balanced budget and orderly adjournment. He has exhibited leadership repeatedly in his first term on high profile issues and even behind the scenes on a less-public proposal to define banned toxics in manufactured products, instead finding an appropriate outlet to express the opinion of some without creating an untenable new law that would negatively impact Vermont businesses.

Representative Patti Komline (R-Dorset), House Minority Leader: The role of the minority is an important component for achieving balanced solutions to the complex problems before the Legislature. As minority leader, Representative Komline successfully kept her caucus together to maintain the pressure on the Democratic super-majority in the House to include components of the business agenda to ensure that in this economy those that are creating jobs are treated fairly. The role of the minority and Representative Komline's leadership could most clearly be seen in the high stakes political game on the 2009 tax hikes approved by the majority party in 2009. That $21 million tax increase was vetoed by the Governor, and for the first time in history, the Legislature overrode the Governor's veto, signaling to Vermonters that those tax increases were more important than allowing Vermonters to keep more of their income and allowing business owners to reinvest those funds in their businesses. Representative Komline held her caucus together and supported Governor Douglas, even in defeat. Undaunted, the minority party continued their efforts into the 2010 session with Representative Komline working with the Douglas Administration and House and Senate leaders to push for a roll back of these taxes, ultimately succeeding in the waning days of the 2010 session.

Representative Adam Greshin (I-Warren), Member, House Committee on Ways and Means: As a freshman legislator, Representative Greshin brought a keen business perspective to the Legislature this biennium and became a welcome business reference in the tax writing committee of the House of Representatives. In addition to understanding how tax credits and tax increases help and hinder the business environment, Representative Greshin also worked diligently behind the scenes to support tourism marketing funding to promote Vermont as a destination for the 80 million potential visitors within a day's drive of Vermont. He also brought his business acumen to the debate on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, seeking a balanced solution.

Representative Michael Marcotte (R-Coventry), Vice Chair, House Committee on Commerce: Representative Marcotte remains a quiet but strong voice for business in a critical committee in the House. As a business owner, he is acutely aware of the challenges of new mandates, taxes, and the difficulties of meeting a payroll. He is also an advocate for his constituents and rural Vermont. He played a critical role as the chief negotiator for the House minority that helped bring about a balanced solution to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund crisis. He was tireless in his efforts on the summer study committee on UI where he developed a comprehensive understanding of the details and complexity of unemployment insurance from all sides. His efforts helped lead the House to a comprehensive solution.