

## PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN VLCT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA TO ASSIST IN DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS

*VLCT members are asked to please send additional proposals to [Irene.recovery@vlct.org](mailto:Irene.recovery@vlct.org).*

*The list will be posted at <http://vlct.org/Irene>.*

*It is an evolving list and will benefit from your contributions.*

- 1 Abate state education property taxes for communities worst hit by flooding damage.
- 2 Extend the December 1 payment date to Education Fund for communities worst hit by flooding damage.
- 3 Increase town highway aid for two years through proceeds from a temporary increase in the gasoline, diesel, and purchase and use taxes.
- 4 Commit FY11 state General Fund budget surplus to the Education Fund to compensate for revenues lost from property tax abatements, lowered 2012 appraisals resulting from flood damage.
- 5 Promote “smart rebuilding” of roads, bridges, and buildings so they will be less susceptible to damage in the future by providing a higher state match for municipal projects.
- 6 Promote better municipal planning and zoning through planning grants.
- 7 Promote better municipal storm water collection and discharge systems that will better protect development through grants and higher state matches for such initiatives.
- 8 Promote more porous alternatives for roadways, parking lots for more drainage.
- 9 Provide state assistance to towns to digitize land records.
- 10 Establish legal structure for public works mutual aid.
- 11 Clarify the authority of selectboards to amend or suspend local land use regulations when the governor has proclaimed a disaster emergency.
- 12 Clarify the authority of selectboards to abate hazards to public safety and public infrastructure when the governor has proclaimed a disaster emergency.
- 13 Establish a definition of “debris” in a declared emergency – drywall and insulation or furnishings thrown in street.
- 14 Clarify the authority of municipalities to abate property taxes “upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.” 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5).
- 15 Establish a standing, state-administered municipal disaster relief loan fund – outside of the ERAF – to provide current expense loans to municipalities that have incurred substantial disaster recovery expenses.
- 16 Authorize a statewide contract administered by Vermont Emergency Management (or some other agency or entity) for municipal disaster recovery assistance services to maximize municipalities’ opportunities to qualify for federal and state disaster funding. In other words, have a contract with a qualified firm with experienced personnel – to assist local governments with documenting recovery work, filing ERAF and RPA forms, preparing FEMA project worksheets, mitigation grant applications, etc. – in place *before* the next disaster, rather than after it.

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- 17 Establish that the secretary of the Agency of Transportation, not the Transportation Committee, is authorized to close roads in a declared emergency.
- 18 Establish protocol for gravel extraction from streams in declared emergencies.
- 19 Establish some procedure for real estate transactions to take place when town land records are unavailable.