



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 5, 2022

Welcome Advisory Panel members:

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to serve on the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap Advisory Panel. We truly appreciate your commitment to helping ensure that the process results in a plan which helps to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect Vermont's forest products sector and the broader forest economy. In crafting the enabling legislation, the General Assembly recognized the important contributions made by the State's forests and forest economy to the overall welfare of Vermonters and the significant challenges faced by Vermont's forest sectors.

The Roadmap is an outgrowth of the Legislature's Rural Economic Development Working Group (REDWnG) forest economy learning tours, held in 2021, to hear directly from folks on the ground about their experiences, perspective, and ideas for how to advance the future viability of the forest economy. It is intended to guide Vermont's efforts and investments in the forest economy into the future by learning from past efforts while exploring new opportunities and forging new partnerships, recognizing that the forest economy touches many agencies, organizations, and interest groups.

The Advisory Panel, by design, is a diverse and representative group of the enterprises, organizations, and partners that make up that economy. As representatives of these interests, we are looking to you to provide your insights and council to ensure that the Roadmap is forward-thinking while being grounded in the realities of the day-to-day challenges you and your stakeholder group face.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months as the Roadmap takes shape! Thank you again for sharing your time and talent in this effort to advance the forest economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K Sims", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

State Representative Katherine Sims  
Orleans-Caledonia District  
Ksims@leg.state.vt.us