Whereas, the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain’s Future (VTCAC) meets regularly to gather information and scientific data concerning activities and factors that affect the water quality of Lake Champlain; and

Whereas, the VTCAC has been presented with information that demonstrates significant concerns related to consistency, frequency, quality, and public accessibility to data derived from limited water quality monitoring for the presence of increased herbicide and pesticide compounds or their derivatives in Lake Champlain streams, tributaries, and segments; and

Whereas, the VTCAC 2021 Action Plan report to the Vermont Legislature includes recommendations that include “[t]he State must fund increased screening of next generation contaminants to enable Vermont to recognize and respond to emerging pollutant issues before they become greater and more expensive problems” and [t]he State must initiate robust improvements in collecting and analyzing herbicide and pesticide use information, with rigorous quality assurance and control, and transparent public reporting; “and

Therefore, the VTCAC has unanimously approved the following request to the Lake Champlain Basin Program Executive and Steering Committees:

Resolved, that the VTCAC hereby requests that the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee, formalize a routine monitoring and sampling program for the presence of herbicides, pesticides, and perhaps other toxins within the existing Long Term Monitoring Program or another programmatic sampling program within the Basin, while providing broad public access to the analysis and data from the sampling program.

Approved February 8, 2021

Submitted by Mark Naud, Chair