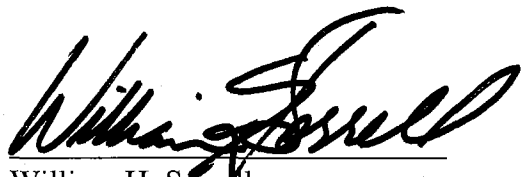


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Over the past year, dozens of Vermonters donated their time, energy and expertise to recommend a myriad of steps to "Get the Lead Out of Vermont." Some steps have been taken over the course of this initiative, others are being worked on as this report is being released, and still others will have to wait until we have the wherewithal to tackle them. The value of this report lies not only in the recommendations that are within our ability to implement in the near future, but also in the vision and choices it presents for us to consider long-term.

We gratefully acknowledge the creative and enthusiastic contributions of numerous dedicated participants in this initiative. They represented many public and private agencies and organizations, bringing their experience and concerns to the table. We asked them to commit to six months of working on this topic, but most worked far beyond that time. To each of them, our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

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