



## Vermont Council

### **Vermont Trout Unlimited Council Statement on Lake Champlain Cleanup**

In 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency announced a plan to clean up Vermont's Lake Champlain and its watershed. Phosphorus and other pollutants have led to a significant decrease in water quality in local streams, rivers and lakes, and the state is now required to do its part to support lake cleanup. The Vermont Trout Unlimited Council strongly supports this cleanup goal, and believes reaching that goal will improve coldwater fisheries in the lake and throughout its watershed.

For years, our members and volunteers have been working to restore Vermont's coldwater fisheries, including the Lake Champlain watershed. We have spent countless hours planting trees, restoring streams and protecting eroding streambanks. We've worked with nonprofit partners, schools, towns, landowners, and state and federal agencies.

Fishermen and fisherwomen are doing their parts. In addition to our volunteer time, anglers spent an estimated \$131 million dollars directly on fishing expenditures in 2011. A significant portion of our license fees also contribute to conservation.

We believe all of these resources are critical to clean water, but they also depend on stable, dependable funding for stream cleanup and protection.

The state's share of cleanup expenses is estimated to be \$26 million per year, and a number of studies have proposed options for raising that revenue. We do not support any specific funding option, but believe the political process should yield a funding source that supports stream restoration. **We call on Vermont's elected officials to identify a permanent, long-term funding source to meet the state's required contribution to the Lake Champlain cleanup.**

Vermont Council Trout Unlimited Moretown,VT [www.vttucouncil.org](http://www.vttucouncil.org) 802-498-7570