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[REDACTED]

Notes from editor (not for publication):

New email address noted and changed in our system. Thanks, Mike. —Jeff

[REDACTED]

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

1 This is what resistance looks like

#####END HED#####

#####BEGIN SUBHED#####

2 The president's election campaign — purportedly
3 centered on lowering the cost of living — didn't include a
4 vengeance tour and efforts to wreak terror on the streets of our
5 nation with masked, armed, unidentifiable hordes

#####END SUBHED#####

6 TEXT BODY:

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

7 A 2-YEAR-OLD held her dolly up to me, and I asked what
8 her name was.
9 "Mine," she said.
10 Then she said, "Love," and she cuddled the doll.

11 Sums up my feelings for our country: "Mine," and
12 "Love."
13 Especially these days, as we feel the threats to our
14 ("Our") democracy and actions from the current president, even
15 in Vermont.

16 We've seen workers grabbed from our streets, challenges
17 to mail-in voting and online misinformation from some entity
18 calling itself the Election Integrity Network (a group started by
19 Trump lawyer Cleta Mitchell).

20 Thankfully, recent elections have given some hope, and
21 recent court decisions have put up some guardrails against the
22 Trump orders/actions (and also amplified what incompetence
23 their lawyers exhibit).

24 These glimmers of light between the ground, and the
25 heels of the jackboots from the masked armed hordes this
26 president has unleashed on America, are fanning the flames of
27 hope.

28 Hope that we will get through.
29 And blowing on the coals of the heart of our republic
30 (thank you, Archibald MacLeish, for those words I'm
31 appropriating), the flame of liberty and justice for all will again
32 illuminate this country. To make us the beacon of hope for the
33 world, again. And the reason people continue to come here —
34 and risk everything to do so.

35 * * *
36 EARLIER THIS FALL, I was invited and allowed to see some
37 real profiles in courage in our brave little state. I was asked to
38 accompany some fellow humans to the ICE headquarters in St.
39 Albans.

40 Organizers of the action felt that having elected officials
41 accompany them might discourage any inkling to make them
42 disappear. Some clergy came, too.

43 It was effective in that, undocumented people came to
44 the building for their scheduled check-ins as part of their

45 respective journeys to U.S. citizenship. They were released — not
46 detained.

47 Here were people who put themselves at considerable
48 risk and danger to come to this country. People who left their
49 birthplace because things were so bad that undertaking an
50 arduous and dangerous journey felt like the better option.

51 I hope it will turn out well for them. But until then, they
52 continue to have to run the gauntlet to stay here, as they follow
53 the process and protocols to become citizens.

54 Their courage and persistence left me inspired that we
55 must continue to resist and to do all we can to let the current
56 administration in Washington, D.C., know that their actions do
57 not reflect the views of the majority of Vermonters and
58 Americans.

59 The current president's election campaign — purportedly
60 centered on lowering the cost of living — didn't include a
61 vengeance tour and efforts to wreak terror on the streets of our
62 nation with masked, armed, unidentifiable hordes.

63 This behavior will be addressed by the first bill that I, and
64 others, will introduce regarding masks and identification, in next
65 year's Legislature, upon reconvening in January.

66 * * *

67 MEANWHILE, THERE'S much we can do while so many are
68 doing what they can. And it all helps.

69 As groups like Indivisible, 50501, and local affinity
70 groups organize, they bring hope to many feeling deflated by the
71 current president's actions. As locals also step up across Vermont
72 and the nation to resist, to protest, and to provide food, rides,
73 legal help, housing, and other supports, we are showing our
74 mettle. And we are showing how the resistance looks and works
75 in these times.

76 This is *our* nation. *Our* government.

77 We can feel as possessive as the little girl felt about her
78 dolly, and we can show our love in that way for this way of life.

79 We are not letting go of the freedoms we find self-
80 evident. We will not relent that we are all created equal and
81 deserve equal treatment under the law, as Pope Leo has been
82 reminding us lately.

83 We will overcome the incivility. The cruelty. The
84 hoarding of resources that is passing for leadership from the
85 current White House.

86 We the People will save democracy and our republic.

87 Whether you see us on the I-91 overpasses, in the ICE
88 parking lot, or at the voting booths, in Vermont, this *is* what
89 democracy looks like.

#####END TEXT#####

BIO/COATTAIL:

#####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL#####

90 **MICHAEL MROWICKI** represents the Windham-4 district
91 (Putney, Dummerston, and Westminster) in the state Legislature
92 and is a longtime Putney resident.

#####END BIO/COATTAIL#####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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#####END LINKS#####

VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

#####BEGIN LOGLINE#####

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#####END LOGLINE#####