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—Dateline.....Brattleboro
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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Richards: the leadership to effect major change

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

I'm eager to say goodbye to Phil Scott as Vermont's governor. He's friend to neither education nor to creative problem solving about our most pressing issues.

I've talked to the two Democratic primary candidates, read their platforms, and attended their forums. I'm convinced Aly Richards is the better candidate, and here's why.

Aly has progressive values along with a track record of success in making those values a reality here in Vermont. Ten

12 years ago, she understood the potential of childcare to drive our
13 economy by letting parents work, businesses grow, and children
14 thrive. She mobilized Vermonters to make childcare more
15 affordable and available in ways that other states want to copy.

16 Both candidates share reformist aims and agree on a lot
17 of things, but what sets Aly apart is her experience in leadership
18 toward strategic goals, her relationships with the people on the
19 ground as well as those eager to make changes in government,
20 and her knowledge of the issues and of how to keep stakeholders
21 focused on the end goals.

22 I'm excited about Aly's priority to develop a Vermont
23 Economic Action Plan, a strategy that could bring people back to
24 the state, encourage young graduates to stay here, and entice
25 new people to move here. She understands that this plan cannot
26 succeed without proven leadership to address housing,
27 healthcare, and education — key pillars to a strong Vermont
28 economy.

29 We need a governor who not only has compelling ideas
30 and deep understanding of the problems but also the experience
31 leading major change right here in Vermont, the knowledge
32 needed to make lasting change without destabilizing systems that
33 are working, and the relationships with people that can make
34 change happen.

35 I believe that person is Aly.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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