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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special
—Dateline.....Westminster
—Article Number:.....43853

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Gray: depth of experience for statewide office

####END HED####

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TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

During my first term as state representative, I had the pleasure of serving while Molly Gray was the lieutenant governor.

While in office, Molly focused on workforce expansion, traveling across Vermont, connecting with businesses, agricultural communities, and labor groups. As a person who grew up in a farm family, she also used her platform to draw attention to rural and agricultural issues, something I deeply appreciate as a

11 member of the House Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry
12 Committee.

13 She also advocated for policies to expand childcare and
14 lower the cost of living — issues she will continue to work on if
15 elected once again to her former office.

16 Molly has an impressive list of life accomplishments,
17 including international human rights work. I moved to Vermont to
18 study international education, and I am grateful for both Molly's
19 local work and her work far beyond our borders. A person who
20 has lived abroad and engaged in policy work on that level and
21 then comes back to work on issues closer to home brings to the
22 table a very wide set of skills that are a huge asset to Vermont.

23 She shows up where she is needed. When I would bring
24 students to the State House in the summer to learn how the
25 Legislature worked and to do a legislative simulation, I'd invite
26 lots of officeholders to come watch.

27 Molly would always show up, and often was the only
28 statewide office holder to make time for the high-school-aged
29 students. They noticed and appreciated her willingness to give
30 her time to help them learn.

31 Since that time, I have been ever more impressed with
32 Molly's work. She has worked tirelessly, helping our Afghan new
33 arrivals to Vermont adapt and integrate into the Vermont
34 communities where they have settled.

35 I know all three Democratic candidates and like all of
36 them, but neither of the other candidates has the depth of
37 experience that Molly does. She is the only one with experience
38 being elected to office on a statewide level. She is the most
39 qualified person for the job.

40 I recommend you cast your vote in the primary for Molly
41 Gray on primary day, Aug. 11.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

42 The writer represents the Windham-3 district in the
43 Vermont House of Representatives.

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

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46

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