

Randy Brock's New Jobs Strategy

Vermont needs to attract new, well-paying jobs...and to keep the ones we have. We've lost thousands of quality jobs in the private sector, replacing too many of them with jobs in government and non-profits. Our strategy to reverse this unhealthy trend ought to consist of the following:

- *Reduce the burden of government.* We need to make state government more efficient, more effective, more transparent, smaller and less costly. A significant number of state employees will be retiring in the next several years. This gives us an unprecedented opportunity to reengineer government, using technology, process improvement and common sense.
- *Think outside the box.* We need to seek out new niche businesses and then create the unique regulatory environments in which these businesses can prosper. We did this with the captive insurance industry, for example, and it has created scores of new high paying jobs in Vermont. Our targets should include the financial service industry, businesses that can prosper from proximity to an international border, agriculturally-related businesses and green industries.
- *Make Vermont welcoming.* We need to change the wide-spread perception that Vermont is hostile to business. We need a legislature that views business as an important part of a vibrant economy, not simply a source of wealth to tax.
- *Craft new incentives that don't cost tax money.* We need to reexamine and expand the Vermont Growth Incentive Program, adjusting it so that it offers attractive incentives that are paid for by new economic activity, not by taxpayers.
- *Reduce the regulatory burden.* We need to streamline our permitting processes, while keeping our environmental standards high. People wanting to start or expand businesses need to work with a government that is fast, clear, flexible and that can deliver results with certainty– and without endless appeals.