Selectboard of the Town of Chester Vermont
PO Box 370
556 Elm Street
Chester, VT 05143

Re: 19 VSA 971, first sentence: "When a highway or bridge is out of repair or unsafe for travel, any three citizens or taxpayers in the State may give written and signed notice of the insufficiency to the selectmen of the town in which the highway or bridge is situated, setting forth in general terms the location of the highway or bridge and the nature of the insufficiency."

Re: Route 35 is out of repair and unsafe from the boundary with Grafton northerly to the Bridge over the Williams River in Chester, VT

Members of the Selectboard,

We the undersigned citizens or taxpayers of the State of Vermont hereby give written notice to the "selectmen" of Chester that a portion of Route 35, which is situated in Chester, is out of repair and unsafe for travel. The Section that is the subject of this notice is generally the section of Route 35 between the southerly Chester town boundary, shared with Grafton, northerly to the Bridge over the Williams River.

Nature of the Insufficiency:

- In this section the pavement is broken and cracked, heaved and uneven in all weather conditions, exacerbated in winter, but almost impassable in summer, full of potholes and craters, disintegrating pavement being turned into pebbles and loose blocks of pavement, whole sections of pavement having been stripped off leaving underlayment exposed. Driving through this section is necessarily slow and uncertain, requiring weaving and braking to avoid the worst spots, making it dangerous for the driver and the other vehicles he/she encounters on the road. The above insufficiencies have been in existence for more than two years and the road just continues to deteriorate and decompose.
- The more northern section, from Popple Dungeon north, still remains unrepaired from damages to it from TS Irene in 2011. In addition to failing pavement and potholes, as described above, there are unprotected ends of guardrails jutting out, which are a potential impaling danger in the event of an accident. In addition, the right of way is narrow with no room to pull off in the case of an emergency because of the jersey barriers set right on the pavement edge on the river side and on the other side the large logs cut down during the clearing of the utility right of way, left to roll down the hill to lie near, or in, the shoulder right of way posing a danger to passers-by and their vehicles.

As an aside, you, as the Chester Selectboard, need to know there are many Grafton residents, Windham County residents, who used to use, and would use, Route 35 to shop and buy necessities in Chester, who have now changed their shopping habits and shop Saxtons River, Bellows Falls and Walpole instead. It would seem this alone would be an incentive to fix this road and keep it maintained.

We demand the requirements of 19 VSA 971, that is, the Town of Chester within 72 hours "commences(s) work upon the highway…and continue(s) the work in good faith and with

reasonable dispatch until the highway…is put is good and sufficient repair." If not we will seek the relief afforded to us pursuant to 19 VSA 971 through 978.

Sincerely the undersigned citizens or taxpayers in the State of Vermont

Print Name: Signature: Address: Date:

Sincerely the undersigned citizens or taxpayers in the State of Vermont

Print Name: Signature: Address: Date: