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December 12, 2013

New England Newspaper and Press Association
370 Common Street
Barletta Hall
3rd Floor, Suite 319
Dedham, MA 02026

Dear New England Newspaper and Press Association,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Chris Braithwaite for induction into the New England Newspaper and Press Association Hall of Fame. Since its founding in 1974, the Barton Chronicle has distinguished itself as a community-focused newspaper with an engaged and loyal readership in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Chris, and his talented staff of writers, has provided Vermonters with in-depth coverage and insightful analysis of today's issues. There are few, if any, Vermont newspapers that capture the life of small communities in the way that the Barton Chronicle has since its founding.

Over the course of his career, Chris has proven himself as a hardworking and talented journalist who has held many roles in the media industry. Chris began his journalism career in 1964 in Ontario and continued to pursue it while living in various cities along the west coast. After moving to Vermont, he founded the Barton Chronicle and has been providing a valuable source of reliable journalism for the 27,000 residents of his area.

Independently owned newspapers, such as the Chronicle, play an invaluable role in our democracy. The fact of the matter is more and more of our media are owned and controlled by fewer and fewer multi-national media conglomerates. Since 1975, more than two-thirds of independently-owned newspapers have vanished in America. Under Chris' stewardship, the Barton Chronicle has withstood the large competitors for 40 years. Independent voices provided by newspapers like the Chronicle are essential for a vibrant democracy, providing a forum for a discussion on the serious issues facing the middle class and working families in this country.

People in Vermont and throughout the United States must be informed on the important issues facing our country. Journalists like Chris play a crucial role in providing Vermonters this information to help them make educated decisions.

Chris' devotion to the press has taken him around the globe. He offers consultation for like-minded journalists who recognize the need for honest and critical reporting. His commitment to freedom of the press is commendable.

I believe Chris Braithwaite to be deserving of entry into the New England Newspaper and Press Association Hall of Fame. If I may provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bernard Sanders".

BERNARD SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR