

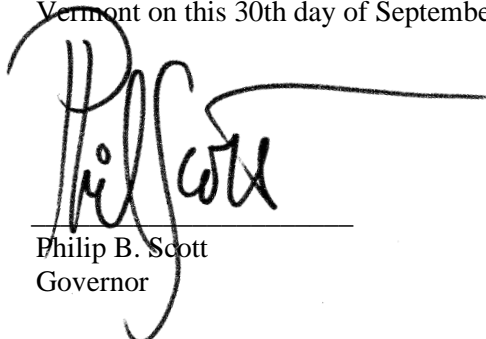
**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**


- WHEREAS,** independent country stores have been a fundamental component of the commerce, history and landscape of Vermont since its earliest days; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores are integral to Vermont's individuality as reflected in its towns, villages and cities; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores are family enterprises, representing core Vermont values; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores are year-round centers for goods, news, services and help in times of need; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores are nimble and able to cater to the needs of their communities faster than large online or brick and mortar stores; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores are also welcome centers that contribute to the decision to visit Vermont and help make such visits rewarding; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores are central to innovative and dynamic economic climates, as well as the security and wellbeing of families and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores continue to contribute to a critical understanding and respect for Vermont's heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores have stayed open to support their communities during the COVID-19 public health emergency; and
- WHEREAS,** independent country stores have made great efforts to support those most at risk for COVID-19 often providing designated hours, extended hours and home delivery of necessities within their communities.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 2021 as

**INDEPENDENT COUNTRY STORE MONTH
in Vermont.**



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 30th day of September, A.D. 2021.


Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs