

## **Urging the Board of Trustees to remove the name of Justin Morrill from Morrill Hall**

**WHEREAS**, United States Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Strafford, Vermont, was the author of the 1862 Morrill Land Grant College Act, also known as the Morrill Act, which was signed into law by President Lincoln; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Morrill Act expropriated approximately 10.7 million acres of land from about 250 Indigenous nations through over 160 military campaigns under the guise of “land cessions” (the legal term used to justify stolen land), displacing millions of Indigenous nations across the territory also known as the United States of America; and,

**WHEREAS**, The University of Vermont (UVM) is the only land-grant university in the State of Vermont; and,

**WHEREAS**, UVM received approximately 148,397 acres of stolen land through the Morrill Act, thus displacing Indigenous people and contributing to their ongoing oppression; and,

**WHEREAS**, The water and land comprising the current UVM campus was taken from the Western Abenaki people; and,

**WHEREAS**, UVM received land grants spanning from Michigan to California, including 160 acres from the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation in Idaho, which were simply seized without any treaty or agreement, as these 160 acres became United States territory in October 1863, seven months after the 1863 Bear River Massacre, in which the United States military killed over 350 members of the Western Shoshone, including about 90 women and children; and,

**WHEREAS**, UVM received Cheyenne and Arapaho land related to the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, where hundreds of unarmed Indigenous women and children were massacred by a Colorado militia; and,

**WHEREAS**, Morrill Hall was constructed in 1904-1907 to serve as the home of the UVM Agriculture Department and the Agricultural Experiment Station; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Trustees oversees the process for renaming buildings at UVM; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, The Graduate Student Senate urges the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont to remove the name of Justin Smith Morrill from Morrill Hall and work with Indigenous nations whose homelands have been taken by the University to select a new name.