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**James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Brian H. Leven, Deputy Secretary**

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For immediate release
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PRESS RELEASE

Secretary of State Jim Condos Announces New Deputy Secretary

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos announced today the appointment of Chris Winters as Deputy Secretary of State. Winters has served the Secretary of State’s office for eighteen years, the last nine of which he has served as Director of the Office of Professional Regulation.

“I am excited to have Chris as my Deputy; I have worked with him for many years – even before becoming Secretary of State. During my time in the Vermont Senate, particularly as Chair of Senate Government Operations, Chris worked with my committee and me – and I have always had great respect for his managerial skills and legal expertise,” commented Condos.

Secretary Condos added, “Chris’ years of experience and his excellent reputation across Vermont State government will allow him to hit the ground running as we head into the legislative session and continue to work on improving the office’s accessibility and transparency.”

Colin Benjamin, Board Counsel for the Office of Professional Regulation, will be replacing Winters as its Director. Secretary Condos remarked, “Colin has been excellently situated to take over as Director of the Office of Professional Regulation. He is an incredibly dedicated public servant who is very passionate about public protection. He will be a great fit for the office.”

Brian Leven, the former Deputy, will be stepping down in January to work closer to home. He has worked for the state of Vermont for approximately sixteen years – the first twelve in the Office of Legislative Council and the last four as the Deputy Secretary of State. The Secretary of State wishes Brian and his family well on their next adventure.