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## Press Release

For immediate release  
November 10, 2008

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### Local Students Meet Local Author Promoting Local Economy

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*Seniors from Vermont Commons School met with author Bill McKibben to learn more about the benefits of a local economy.*

The economy is on everyone's mind these days – including the minds of Vermont's youth. So it's fitting that students in Mark Cline-Lucy's senior social studies class at Vermont Commons School have been studying the economy and how it relates to other issues including global warming and the war in Iraq.

The primary text for the class is *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and Durable Future* by Bill McKibben, author of numerous books and scholar-in-residence in environmental studies at Middlebury College. "*Deep Economy* has provided us the perfect vehicle for exploring some of the most pressing

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global and local issues via a range of social studies lenses: economics, philosophy, sociology, history, political science and geography,” explains Cline-Lucey. “The subject matter has clearly captivated the students since they have come to class every day prepared and eager to discuss. I believe that they deeply sense the relevance of this material to their own lives and future and it has been an awesome experience to engage in this learning with them”

True to the mission of Vermont Commons, Cline-Lucey does his best to get his students out of the classroom and into the world. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, his class of 17 seniors attended a debate at UVM between McKibben and Russell Roberts, a professor of economics at George Mason University in Virginia. The two professors debated the benefits of a local economy versus a global economy. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, his class traveled to Middlebury College to meet with McKibben for an hour and ask him questions about his work to promote the growth of local economies in the United States and around the world. It was an especially timely visit -- right after Barack Obama won the presidential election.

So how does this focus on interactive learning impact the students at Vermont Commons? According to senior Ian Hollyer of Shelburne, *“For the past four years, we studied history in order to gain a better understanding of how the world works. Our senior social studies class is something remarkable, because it applies what we're been learning throughout high school to our lives today. As a student and as a individual about to enter a new world around me after high school, Mark provides me invaluable insight into being a successful person in the present.”*

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**About Vermont Commons School:** Vermont Commons School is an independent day school for students in grades 7 – 12. The school offers a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that includes a focus on community service and experiential education. The mission of the Vermont Commons School is to provide a vision of education that crosses traditional boundaries and develops ecological citizenship, with the goal of empowering students with the knowledge, character, skills, and moral vision necessary to become responsible, pro-active members of the world community. For more information, please visit [www.vermontcommons.org](http://www.vermontcommons.org).

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