



February 26, 2010

Dear Friends,

For those of you who don't know me, I am the president of Systems Plus, a 21-year old business with 30 employees that is headquartered in Lebanon, NH. Systems Plus is in many ways the perfect example of a local business.

At Systems Plus we work hard to earn and keep Upper Valley residents and businesses as our customers. However, we face stiff competition from big box stores and internet retailers. National firms are extremely powerful, and it's often difficult for local businesses to get the consideration they deserve.

For this reason I am excited to serve on the Steering Committee of the Local First Alliance. Though it might seem a contradiction, the Local First Alliance is part of a nationwide movement to support local businesses. This organization is raising people's awareness of the importance of keeping their money in the Upper Valley. By doing so, the Local First Alliance will protect and improve the economy of the Upper Valley.

Some of you know that I became a volunteer firefighter at age 52. I did this because I wanted to give back to my community. I got involved in the Local First Alliance for the same reason, and I hope that you will do so as well. I urge every business and every employee in the Upper Valley to join the Local First Alliance today.

Sincerely,

Jake Blum
President
Systems Plus Computers