From:	Edward Zimmer
To:	DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES; Ring, Bettina; Brad Copenhaver; Heidi Hertz
Subject:	The Branch - January 11, 2021
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Rob is on vacation this week, trying somewhat unsuccessfully to find some good snow in Vermont. Let's hope he has more luck the rest of the week and returns refreshed and ready to advocate for the Governor's legislative agenda after the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday next Monday.

It was great to see in this week's edition of The Branch the number of new employees coming on board this week, and the news of Sarah Parmalee moving into a new and exciting role. We have several more field positions being advertised this week, with more to come in the near future. Getting the agency back to full staffing is always an ongoing process, but we get closer with every hire. Please reach out to these folks and welcome them to their new roles as you feel inclined.

Now the somber news. We continue to see additional members of our VDOF family, whether staff members or members of their families, join the ranks of folks who test positive for COVID-19. Beginning just after the Thanksgiving holiday, our numbers, while still relatively low, have increased significantly. Fortunately, there is no indication any of these cases were contracted at work. While the vaccine gives us a light at the end of the tunnel, we need to continue to be diligent in our safety precautions, both at work and at home.

Have a great week. Stay safe and stay diligent.

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