

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for asking me to testify today as a victim of nefarious loggers. I appreciate this opportunity to clarify my story of victimization by Codling Brother's Logging and point out many others were also victims of the Codlings and the Bacon family of loggers in Northern Vermont. I admit I was naive in my understanding of entering into a contract with such hardened criminals, but my cousin was married to Paul Codling, and an adjoining neighbor was enjoying the execution of his contract with the Codlings, to the best of my knowledge. I know now, I should have contacted Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation or a forester on my selection of contractors; while they may not have been able to disclose the nefarious history of these 3 brothers, they could have guided me to an honorable business, or so I thought.

I entered into both a verbal and written contract with the Codlings on September 6, 2018. I noted certain stipulations were needed to be put in place to clarify my position on the contract, and they agreed to these added stipulations, and proceeded to continue working on the two adjoining properties. Shortly thereafter, they came onto my property, dragging my logs to my neighbor's adjoining shared log landing.

My neighbor approached me shortly after and asked if I had received any payment for logs; he had not, and it had been weeks. I told him I had not received anything and contacted the other adjoining neighbor about his current experience with the Codlings.

He stated he had been paid for the first four loads of logs a while ago, but nothing since then. We all realized something was amiss, and collectively contacted David Codling concerning the matter. We were all told by David various stories of delays, deals, and about a fire in one of his tenants' apartments. Promises were made, but never fulfilled.

On December 31, 2018, I heard some heavy equipment traveling above my house, and realized Codling's logging operation was leaving our locations headed to another undisclosed location, with no acknowledgement of intentions.

Shortly thereafter, I found their operation on an adjoining property and confronted David, and he told me he had used my money for a "deal" he had made, and I would get paid Friday, which never happened. I went back to the landing later, only to confront Paul, who told me he was going to counter claim, stating I owed him for tree service. This was never discussed or part of any contract. Later in court proceedings, the judge stated no evidence could be substantiated to support his claim, and I won the judgement.

This was the start of my involvement with: the Vermont State Police, the AGO-CAP division of the AG's office, Washington County Superior Court, Vt Dept of FPR (Commissioner Mike Snyder), Rep Robert LaClair, Vermont Forest Products Association, numerous senators, and the AG's Criminal Division. Because of the interactions with these parties, I have found at least twenty-seven other victims with

remarkably similar stories of victimization. Most are voting senior citizens (some with military service), with claims of nonpayment, failure to adhere to both the verbal and written contracts, partial payments, and damage to properties. A Good deal of those injured did not go to court, because it was well known by the general population, restitution was not going to be forthcoming. Most businesses pointed out they knew the system favors the perpetrators, and throwing money at a lawyer was a waste of time and effort; they would be better off working to recap their loss.

I, on the other hand, went to court, won the judgement, the counter claim, the oral argument, and the Codlings failed to show for a financial disclosure, their standard Modus Operandi. By this time, I realized the goal post was constantly shifting at my expense, and when the judge asked me if I wanted to file a contempt of court charge, I reached saturation and contacted Rep Marc Mihaly. He has been instrumental in helping me bring light upon this ongoing situation.

For me, this battle for justice started as an ongoing battle to make myself and others whole again monetarily, but I soon realized it could not happen without the help of those in positions of authority. You, and others, could not only potentially recapture the lost nest egg many seniors were planning to use to enhance their livelihoods, but provide a strong deterrent to those taking unfair advantage of vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for asking me to testify, and we (my victims' group) past and possibly future victims, look forward to your positive involvement in this long overdue problem.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Carriveau