

E-mail received 2/11/14

Katie –

I understand you are the contact for requesting to testify to the Senate Natural Resources Committee on S.100. I just left a voice message for you as well.

I work for Wagner Forest Management, Ltd. We manage over 20,000 acres of forest lands in Vermont on behalf of private owners. I also live in Sharon, VT, on 13 acres that are adjacent to significant areas of unfragmented forest.

While I did not receive any response from the Committee to my note below, I did separately receive Senator Galbraith's proposed amendment from another interested party. (It would seem there is room for improvement in making sure an informed citizenry can provide timely input to their elected representatives.) While the proposed amendment addresses a couple of issues, it leaves many more unresolved, and creates a few new issues as well.

Fundamentally, it is impossible to know what lands will be affected by the proposed legislation. If there is a focus on individual forested parcels that are over 1,000 acres in size, this undercuts the argument that it is unfragmented habitat that is important to wildlife that is behind the initiative. If all contiguous forested habitat connected to contiguous forested habitat that is at least 1,000 acres in size would be subject to the resulting regulations (which would be consistent with the concept that it is the habitat that is important), then they could sweep large swaths of VT, including lots of backyards (including mine?), under Act 250 jurisdiction.

I would appreciate having the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee on this bill. I understand you are scheduling testimony on the bill this Thursday, and I would welcome the opportunity to share my perspective and questions with the Committee.

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