

November 15, 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the issues expressed in Act 47.

At this time, I hope the Commission has learned more about the history and current process of Act 250.

You have also heard from a variety of individuals regarding their ideas for possible changes.

The most important recommendation I can give the Commission is to focus on the outcomes that Vermonters value. If the big picture is clear, it will be much easier, and more effective to develop the details that support those goals.

I strongly encourage you to develop a series of questions to guide the public engagement phase of Act 47. It will also significantly benefit the discussion to create an introductory overview that includes the history of Act 250, the application process, and the data analysis of permit issuance.

Sample questions could include the following:

1. What do you value most about Vermont?
2. How much do a clean environment, protected natural resources and scenic views matter to you?
3. What do you hope Vermont will look like in 50 years?

Act 250 was developed by the people, for the people, to improve the quality of life in Vermont. Its' premise and vision are a solemn promise to Vermonters. The NRB is committed to working with the Commission to create the best possible result from the Act 47 review.

“If the prize is gone, the struggle loses meaning. The Vermont environment is the prize.”