

Hello Faith,

Thank you very much for sharing your email and suggesting that my group submit comments via email. I would like to submit the following to the Commission:

Thank you for listening with care to the concerns that Justina Gregory and I voiced at your Dec. 13th hearing. We were grateful for this opportunity.

I am particularly concerned that the voices of citizens who have questions or concerns about a proposed project should not only be heard, but be sought out by Act 250 District Commissions as a part of the process by which an application is reviewed. I was therefore glad to hear the remarks of advisors to the Commission on Act 250 about the importance of citizen involvement.

I also wish to express my concern that the decisions of Act 250 District Commissions should remain open to full scrutiny by all interested parties – as is presently the case when an Act 250 decision is appealed in environmental court, where *de novo* review allows all parties a full evaluation of the evidence, testimony and proceedings that went into the application and hearings before the District Commission. It is essential to the integrity of the permitting process that *de novo* review should remain available to all interested parties.

Again, thank you for allowing me to express my concerns before the Commission on Act 250, and may your work go well!

Sincerely,

Susan M. Kelly, DVM
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