

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kimberly Gaschel my family moved to West pawlet Vermont in January. We chose Vermont based on the notion that Vermont truly cared about the environment which is something we also care deeply about. We honestly felt it was the perfect fit, a place where our children could breathe clean air and drink clean water and lead a healthy life.

Fast forward to August we hear what sounds like decimation in the woods next door. I walk over as I know there are some small Old Quarry pits and I am shocked to see a large chunk of the Woods 50 feet from our property line completely bulldozed. This is an area of immense Wetlands and I immediately noticed some pink Wetlands tags on trees that had been bulldozed to the ground. After a bit of inquiry we discovered a quarry owner next door had decided on massively enlarging a small existing pit in search of more stone. No notification was given to any of the area residents and over 100 homes reside within a mile of this site. We have no knowledge of when blasting will start, or the potential effects it will have on our homes and environment. When we purchased our home I specifically asked the agent if the quarries were still active and was told "no." I had no reason not to believe him and had no idea that Vermont would grandfather in tiny little quarry holes for future use. It is 2018 and who in their right mind would think people could blast,dig, cause destruction right next to your house where your kids play with no regulation at all!

I am very concerned that a blind eye is being turned with the exemptions currently in place. Quarry pits have destroyed the beauty of this part of Vermont. When you drive into West pawlet you are not greeted with lush green mountains and Courier and Ives like scenes like in much of Vermont you are instead greeted with slate mountains piled as tall as they can be. Quarry owners bully local homeowners who speak out against them. They infringe on properties and face no repercussions.

My home was built in the mid-to-late 1800s as were most of the homes in this area. This is a historic area with historic homes. What right do I as a homeowner have to protect my home and my families quality of life? These Quarry owners say they try to be good neighbors but are out there bulldozing at 8:15 on a Saturday and Sunday morning every weekend.

Our neighbors Ron and Linda Taylor have lived here 50+ years. They warned us not to let the kids swim in the quarries as they have been a toxic dumping ground. They live in fear of this quarry becoming active again because it sits directly behind their home. Unfortunately they are not in the best health and cannot fight this. This is why we are asking to remove the exempt status of these quarries so we as homeowners and members of this community can know they are regulated, practices are safe and we can feel safe as well.

We moved to Vermont because we really bought into the fact that Vermont cares about the environment. It is complete irony to now have to deal with something this environmentally destructive and obtrusive directly next to our home. This was our Vermont dream and it has become our nightmare. If something happens to one of us or our home who is held accountable? With no regulation where do I turn? We are not asking to shut down the Quarry industry but we are asking for common sense regulations like our neighbor New York. We have contemplated attempting to move but

cannot as the value of our home has been vastly diminished. Who would want to live next to a huge quarry pit where they can blast and work all ours of the day even on weekends with NO regulation!!? Every single day I walk outside and am hit with the sounds of large quantities of falling rocks, large trees being knocked to the ground, loud bangs and crashes this is all day long mind you and this is only while they prep the site I can only imagine what it will be like when they begin quarrying. My 3 year old is scared to go outside because it sounds like monsters are in the woods. It is completely infringing on our ability to enjoy our home and we do not want to be forced out because of this. I am appealing to you to please change this not just for our family but for the numerous families directly in this vicinity that cannot fight for themselves for one reason or another whether fear of retaliation or the acceptance that they have no rights and our lives and homes don't matter. I ask you this please put yourself in our shoes, how you would feel if a quarry was opening up completely unregulated within 100 feet from where your children or grandchildren play how would you feel? Please do away with the exemption from act 250 show that Vermont cares about its citizens whether they are a lifelong vermonter or someone who just moved here for the beauty of the environment like us. On behalf of your constituents please do right by us. Thank you so very much.

Kim Gaschel and family