

I have been involved with three Act 250 applications since the early 2000's and each has been an education in how the process proceeds in both positive and negative ways. At this time with uncertainty in federal funding for environmental as well as social needs, it is a concern that ANR, which is already understaffed, will be squeezed by changes.

I have watched the careful evaluations done by ANR in Act 250 cases and despite their efforts I have been dismayed by the lack of "boots on the ground" as a part of assessing the natural riches and sensitivities of areas in different seasons. I also am concerned that in the Halifax Quarry application, the standard of a 100 year flood prevailed despite the terrible damage to the Green River from Irene in 2011. When resources are as stretched as they appear to be, it is also impossible to monitor a project deep in the woods in a sensitive area noted for its exemplary mixed forest.

Vermont is a beautiful state because it has resisted capitulation to unrestricted development. I hope that any changes to the law that has done much to keep Vermont green will be done in a spirit of preservation for what is unique in the nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marilyn Allen
Resident and voter in Halifax