

Lou Magnani, Wells, VT 802-287-2588

Members: Commission on Act 250,

I have already sent the Commission comments regarding the slate quarry exemption to Act 250. That was before reading about the Silverman family in Poultney and the Gaschel family in W. Pawlet. Both of these families moved to Vermont because they had young children and wanted to raise their families in a wholesome environment. Both families were devastated by the absence of Act 250 protection.

One of the stated goals of both the governor and his challenger is to bring into Vermont young families like these two. Please read this article from the Rutland Herald to try and get an appreciation of how the exemption has affected the lives of people who moved here - only to have a quarry open up in their back yard.

https://www.rutlandherald.com/news/local/poultney-family-settles-quarry-lawsuit/article_659e9166-4eba-5077-988a-1ae32f8a6fb8.html

Over the years since this exemption has been in effect there have been many reported instances of abuse by the industry and countless unreported instances of everyday people being subjected to similar abuses. And there have been legislators like Elizabeth Ready and David Deen who proposed doing away with it. Yet it remains.

The slate quarry exemption should never have passed and this is your opportunity to end it. If codified "for the next 50" it is an invitation to make a complete ecological and aesthetic mess of this area. It may also be an invitation for the small companies to sell out to a mining firm like OMYA.

If left as is the legislature should include a requirement that all real estate transactions be predicated on a buyer informed of the industry's potential impact on them. Of course that would slow down the real estate market - especially for those people in search of a better, cleaner

healthier quality of life; i.e. those people we are purportedly trying to attract to the state. If the goal of getting young people to move to Vermont includes the slate valley, this exemption has to go.

Please, do the right thing and eliminate this horrible exemption. In the last 25 years or so it has degraded the quality of life for so many people it is a disgrace. Act 250 was meant to protect us from this kind of exploitative development and the exemption omits us from these protections.

Thank you,

Lou Magnani, Wells, VT