

April 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Joseph G. Daley, Jr. of Lemington. I have been a resident of the town of Lemington for all of my sixty years. I have served 30 consecutive years as a town Selectman. A member of my family has served as Lemington's Fire Warden for at least 75 consecutive years. My father was a representative in the Vermont State Legislature back when every town had a representative. My family has been in Lemington for 6 generations, we have deep roots in this town. We are lifetime Vermonters.

I am unable to attend today's hearing because I am working in the family operated maple sugaring orchard which has been maintained for the six generations we have been here in Lemington. I also serve as town road agent and we are in the middle of another unpredictable storm. I need to be available to make sure Lemington's town roads are passable.

My family has diligently paid our property taxes in this town, year after year. Being self employed, I work extremely hard, every day of the year, to keep my families land in tact.

Our town needs the help of our legislature to make some positive changes for our town and other towns who may fall into this similar situation. After reviewing the Homestead Education Property Tax Rates by town, Lemington was almost 20% higher than the next highest town. My taxes increased by 58% last year alone. No town or taxpayer should have this kind of spike. This is unfair and unjust.

My mother used to say, "Blessed be nothing." At the rate that educational taxation here in Vermont is increasing, I am beginning to wonder whether or not our family will be able to hold this beautiful undeveloped property together any longer.

Sincerely,

Joseph George Daley, Jr.  
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Lemington, Vermont 05903