



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 24, 2020

Rep. Kitty Toll
Chair, Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chair Toll:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife (HNR) in regard to H.926, an act relating to changes to Act 250. H.926 as introduced contains an appropriation from the General Fund in Section 19. The bill changes the existing Natural Resources Board to a professional board that would issue major Act 250 permits. The appropriation was for the increased staff and operation expenses associated with the changes to the Natural Resources Board.

However, HNR no longer supports the creation of a professional Natural Resources Board and will be introducing an amendment to strike it from H.926. The Natural Resources Committee does not believe that the \$640,687.00 appropriation is necessary considering this amendment.

However, the Committee received testimony that the Natural Resources Board in its present state is underfunded and in need of more staff. HNR would like the Natural Resources Board to retain more staff in order to better support the District Commissions and to support implementation of the new criteria. Therefore, the Natural Resources Committee requests an appropriation of \$200,000.00 to the Natural Resources Board for the purpose of hiring two additional attorneys for the Act 250 program.

Please let me know if you need additional information or input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Amy Sheldon'.

Rep. Amy Sheldon
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife