

Dear Representative,

I am writing to urge you to keep ACT 250 alive as it was originally rooted.

Along with neighbors, I have participated in the ACT 250 process to preserve my home and neighborhood from not one, but two, polluting industries proposed by the same contractor. If it were not for the ability to present our concerns to the District Commission for a review of the project, it would have been truly a catastrophe. No voice in presenting concerns for the health, safety and welfare of our families and environment is an exclusion taxpayers cannot accept! Citizens are being edged out more and more in the ability to control their own way of life in our state; our Vermont Constitution outlines that freedom, it's a given!

I have watched the testimony presented to the Natural Resources Committee. Sadly, I have come to the conclusion, testimony given by VNRC and NRB both swayed in favor of industry, is being given more weight than actual Vermonters who this process has been placed to protect.

Citizens depend on our state agencies and leaders to protect the health, safety and welfare of our people and environment; how it is even plausible to consider diminishing ACT 250 and District Commissions, in turn eliminating citizens right to public participation in having a voice is bordering criminal!

I implore the Natural Resource Committee to not make a shamble of ACT 250, by making it conducive to industry over citizen's welfare. Keep ACT 250 alive and well; a better consideration would be the return of the Environmental Board as being a part of the process. The Board made the playing field equal to all.

Thank you for hearing my concern, my voice!

Lori Bernier