

Greetings Mr. Grimes.

I am writing to you from Vershire, to let you know that I am dismayed that Act 250, our well known and respected environmental protection law, is being targeted for changes that will render the process overly cumbersome for most Vermonters and impotent in supporting local community's right to self-determination, that the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Scott Administration have proposed major changes to the law in order to make it more developer-friendly and harder for citizens to participate is disgraceful.

The proposal includes the elimination of the local District Commissions. This is the heart and soul of Act 250 (even by VNRC) It makes citizen participation possible because it is informal and does not require the hiring of lawyers to have a voice in local matters. Participation would become virtually impossible for most people other than developers and state agencies. VNRC has reported in the past that the District Commissions are an essential and critically important forum for citizens to be able to participate in decisions that will affect them.

I understand that the Chair of the committee hearing the matter is Amy Sheldon and that she has proposed that Act 250 keep the commissions but use something called "On the Record" which means that they have to become formal and legal, completely ruining the less formal, citizen-friendly, process that exists in the District Commissions now. I strongly oppose this ruling being imposed.

Sincerely,
Joanna Hamlin
Vershire, VT