

Hello my name is Eugene Reid,

I chair the District 7 Commission, the Northeast Kingdom, and have served on the District 7 Commission for over 20 years. I have read through some of the proposed changes to Act 250. While I do not yet fully understand the very recent proposal by VNRC and the Administration, a few things stand out to me that as a resident of the Kingdom I would disagree with and I would say that my neighbors would also not want to see.

Elimination of the district commissions: I feel this completely erodes the intent of Act 250. One of the keystones of Act 250 is Place Based Decision. What fits in Chittenden County may not be a good fit in Essex County and vice versa. Would we want people in Texas making decisions for Vermont? It is important to keep locals in charge of local decisions. It is also important to ensure that the Act 250 process remains accessible and user-friendly for the general public. In the Kingdom we have many towns without zoning, many small businesses, and applicants and neighbors who apply and participate, with assistance from the District Coordinator, often without hiring attorneys and engineers. It is my understanding that the PUC process is not user-friendly to the public; as such, it should not be used as a model for a revised Act 250 process. The current district commission process, in my opinion, works well, and should be left alone.

Thank you for considering my testimony.