

Feb. 8, 2020

To: Chair, and House Committee on Fish, Wildlife,
and Natural Resources [Act 250]

From: Carol Irons, Albany, VT. 755-6143

The most direct and efficient way to reduce global warming is to preserve large tracts of forest. Exempting energy developers from Act 250 protections was a betrayal of our irreplaceable ecosystems. That should be corrected. Also, the local commissions must be retained so local citizens are not further disenfranchised from input about the environment where we live.

Attorney Dingle's on the record testimony is most accurate! Clearly it contradicts the fake environmentalism of organizations which have been co-opted by the energy empire. These groups with names implying ecosystems expertise actually function as lobbyists for industrial scale energy development projects. Examples are VPIRG, REV, NRC.

I am dismayed at the lack of real understanding of how a healthy environment works. There is denial/avoidance on the part of the state and these groups regarding the ripple effect of such projects. Damage accumulates over time and

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in progressive concentric circles for years — decades — well beyond the industrial footprint. As well, there is far more of interrelated life forms than black bears that are impacted and changed significantly.

The failure to take this into account leads to a lot of unforeseen consequences.

Please start over and do deep research into why the original Act 250 (nationally a landmark) was so critical for fish, wildlife, natural resources, people, waters, Vermont's image and economy.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Carol G. Irons