

Subject: updating ACT 250

Protection of Ridgelines and preserving intact ecosystems are important for habitat protection and dealing with climate change.

Any major development proposals located near or around wetlands, ridgelines, or significant habitat or waterways, should continue to be prioritized under Act 250

jurisdiction. This also should include major energy proposals. There should be some sort of mechanism built in to section 248

that is triggered when a project has a significant impact. Having the PUC overruling non-binding criteria is contradictory to the goals of protection of forest blocks and other attributes vital to dealing with climate change.

Determining environmentally sensitive areas could be achieved by referring to the color coded ANR maps.

I also strongly support the continuation of the regional commissions

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