

From: Sarah Post
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:44 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: slate quarry exemptions

Dear Ms. Bozarth,

I am writing to show my support for the removal of slate quarry exemptions under Act 250. Unfortunately I am unavailable for testimony by phone on Tuesday 3/19, but would like to offer my email as testimony.

We have lived in West Pawlet for 15 years surrounded by slate quarries and slag piles. We fully understand that this is a slate town and that the industry has been around for 100+ years. Over the years we have heard small rumbles or tremors and learned that they are local slate quarry blasts. We had no real problem with these as they sound like distant thunder without much ground vibration at all.

On February 9th of this year, we felt 2 large blasts about 4-5 hours apart. It was a Saturday and my husband was outside for the first one--he felt it in his chest and had never felt a blast with so much force. I was inside for the second one later in the day. We felt a HUGE blast that was loud and came through the ground and hit the foundation. It shook the house and the windows. My sister visiting from San Francisco said she thought it was the start of an earthquake. We have never felt blasts that strong.

We have heard that local slate quarries are going to begin new activity this spring. The possible damage to our foundations, windows, well, and water supply is very concerning to us. I did call two local companies--one returned my call and said they were not blasting on 3/9. I have not heard back from the other.

I strongly disagree with slate quarry exemptions under Act 250. I do not understand how a slate quarry can be inactive for 50 years and then start blasting again without any warning. In any 50 year period new discoveries are made about environmental protections and new industry standards need to be considered.

Please let my email be a part of testimony and share my concerns with the committee.

Thank you,
Sarah Post