



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 4, 2019

House Committee on Fish, Wildlife,
and Natural Resources

Dear Committee Members,

The Rutland County legislative delegation would like to draw your attention to the Slate industry of Western Rutland County.

Please consider the 300 hundred jobs and the direct influx this industry contributes into the local economy as you discuss changes to Act 250.

We ask you to keep in place the existing jurisdictional opinions for the slate pits which have already been obtained and recorded in town land records. These grandfathered pits are dormant slate quarrying operations where quarry owners can re-open as their business demands.

The slate industry is different from the marble and granite industries. The slate industry is comprised largely of family owned operations which do not have engineers and lawyers on staff. Multiple Act 250 applications will pose a hardship and substantial hurdle to these businesses.

Eliminating the grandfather clause would not resolve any issues perceived now. Existing regulations from ANR, ATF, Act 250, local zoning laws, professional regulation, and general social behavior could be utilized in addressing existing problems.

If a working group between the slate industry owners and the District 1 Act 250 commission should become part of your remedy for this situation we would support this effort.

For The Rutland County Delegation

Rep. Butch Shaw, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Butch Shaw".