



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 7, 2018

Mr. Bud Brown
Brown's Quarried Slate Products, Inc.
Castleton, Vermont

Dear Bud:

Thank you for your kind gifts of the slate chopping boards surrounding my visit to the State of Vermont over Labor Day weekend.

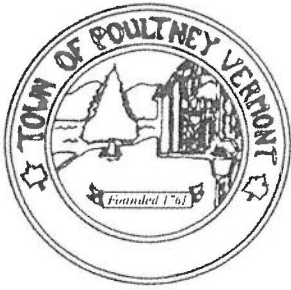
I am grateful for your thoughtfulness in sharing the beauty of Vermont's natural stone. Your gifts will serve as reminders of Vermont's history and heritage, and as wonderful keepsakes from my visit to the Green Mountain State.

Thank you again, and may God bless you and everyone at Brown's Quarried Slate in the days ahead.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Pence", written over the typed name and title.

Michael R. Pence
Vice President of the United States



Town of Poultney

March 19, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The slate quarry industry has been an integral component of the fabric of Poultney since the mid-1800's. Many slate quarry businesses are multi-generational entities, having passed from generation to generation. For many people involved in the slate quarrying business it is more than just business, it is a way of life.

Like much of Vermont, the Town of Poultney is comprised of many hard-working people. There are hundreds of people that live in Poultney, and surrounding towns, whose livelihoods depend on slate quarrying. There are folks harvesting, and manufacturing slate products, and there are many businesses that support slate quarrying activities.

In addition, the Town of Poultney works very closely with many of the slate quarries, and relies on them to supply materials for infrastructure improvements, i.e. road repairs, and upgrades, often at lower costs, and sometimes at no cost. The loss of such resources could negatively impact already taxed highway budgets.

With the pending closure of Green Mountain College, Poultney is preparing for a transitional period. It would be difficult to imagine the additional financial, social, and historical hardship for Poultney should slate quarries be forced to shutter.

Very Truly Yours,

Paul A. Donaldson
Town Manager, Poultney, Vermont



Town of Castleton

Dear Sir's and Madam's,

Slate quarries in Vermont are not just job producers, they are a tradition. The western portion of Rutland County has a long rich history of slate quarrying, providing beautiful products that cover our rooftops and floors and stand the test of time. The owners of quarries in western Rutland County are environmentally conscious landowners and we are disappointed that nobody from our legislative body called our small town of 4,717 people to ask how these latest Act 250 attacks would impact our Town, the second largest in Rutland County. We are disappointed that we were not able to have a civil conversation with you about the pride we have in our local slate quarries and depend on them for jobs and the wonderful products they produce. We are disappointed that local businesses can be regulated out existence and local communities like Castleton are overlooked and get no vote in these restrictive and job-killing decisions.


If you look up the history of central/western Vermont, including Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, and Poultney, you will see a rich history in the slate industry. Some of the architecture in the area is constructed from the beautiful green and purple slate from our quarries.

In times of need, these business owners and employees are there to support their communities in many ways. Many are philanthropic and step up when their communities are in need. This spring has really wreaked havoc on our dirt roads. We were really in need of assistance to repair the majority of our dirt roads so emergency vehicles, school buses, and commuters could travel the roads safety. Many roads were impassable and several of our local quarry owners reached out to offer their assistance. In one instance, a local quarryman provided a truck and driver so our short-handed highway department could make necessary and timely repairs to get our dirt roads to passable condition. They opened early and stayed late so work could continue to improve the conditions in their community. This is not the practice of every business owner, but this is how our local quarryman treat their communities.

We ask that before any job-killing restrictions are placed on Vermont's quarry owners, that you take some additional time to talk with communities like Castleton, and visit our community to see firsthand how much these quarries are part of our history and a source of pride. We cannot afford to continue to lose jobs and negatively impact our community.

We strong urge you to halt any further action in your committee until you have spoken to quarry owners and local communities to educate yourselves on how these quarries are an integral part of our communities and our vitality.

Respectfully yours,


Michael A. Jones
Town Manager


James Leamy
Select Board Chairman



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March 18, 2019

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express concerns I have regarding the closing of the local Slate Quarries serving the towns of Vermont.

Vermont has the long-standing tradition of its people being helpful, neighborly, and self-reliant. This tradition extends itself to the business owned and operated by Vermonters, especially those providing product and services to its people.

As a recent example, this year's mud season is worse than anyone has seen in years. In our town, it reached emergency status. We had to have access to stone to open the roads and we had to have it NOW! Thankfully, we have a slate quarry in a neighboring town. The owner/operator was gracious enough to open beyond his normal operating hours, including days he would be closed, to accommodate us. What other states would do this? so readily? so willingly?

The concern that emergency services would not be able to reach our people was real. The roads were not passible by car and were difficult with many of the new crossover SUVs. We really didn't have the option to wait and our neighbor knew that and was not willing to make us wait. The proximity of his slate quarry to our location was paramount. It shortened the amount of time it took our trucks to dump and haul loads. Faster than using a quarry in a different town never mind a different state.

Please, when you take the time in your committee to review and talk about the decision to close local slate quarries, consider what this is doing to Vermont. Can we really afford to lose more of our local businesses? Can we afford to lose access to local services? Can we afford to lose the face of who and what Vermont is?

I strongly urge you to NOT close the Slate Quarries of Vermont. Our roads will suffer, our people will suffer and in the long run, tourism will suffer.

Sincerely,

Janet Morey
Hubbardton Road Commissioner/ Vice-Chair Select Board