

> Dear legislators,

> I have been attempting to follow the work of your committee as it concerns revisions to Act 250. Much of the conversation is over my head, but I am clear about what my concerns are.

> First and foremost is the necessity to maintain District Act 250 Commissions as a forum for the public to comment and bring concerns about environmental impacts of proposed development. Earlier proposals to eliminate them and replace with a state level board guts the opportunity for local public participation in decision making that impacts our natural resources, which once damaged may be impossible to recover.

> Also, and forgive me if I don't understand this part of the conversation, but I also think it is imperative to keep development, including ATVs and snowmobiles, off the State trail system and the public lands involved in order to ensure that this system is kept intact. Vermont is defined by its open spaces, clean air and water and wildlife habitats. These must continue to be protected.

> While the economic future of Vermont may benefit from development, and an influx of new residents escaping climate change or whatever, it is essential to preserve and protect the environment simultaneously.

> Thank you,

> Peggy Stevens

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