

Sam Smith

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- Introduction and history working direct one-on-one with farmers
- Involved in the discussions around the progression of legislation aimed at addressing the changing needs of farmers
- Today's farmers face a very different land scape then prior generations:
 - Increased land prices and competition
 - No replicable commodity based business model
 - Need to access higher margin direct to consumer markets
- These farmers provide the backbone of our rural economy through
 - Employment and economic activity
 - Keeping land open and active
 - Providing healthy food
- This legislation is essential because it helps provide clarity
 - Around what activities are permissible
 - Does not add additional regulatory burden
 - Act 250-Lack of application does not mean other regulatory concerns are not addressed
 - Allows farmers to support each other in accessing markets
 - Complimentary products
 - Meeting consumer demands
- It is imperfect but reflects a move to address shortcomings of previous legislation