

Testimony, Joseph Morel

Senator Ingalls and Senator Major,

We appreciate your time and dedication in the last couple months to address the issue that our Collective is experiencing with the NRB and by extension the peril that other farms now face with the wording of 181 (2024). We recognize that this short time frame has prevented a full hearing and understanding of solutions. We had hoped that a simple clarification of multi-use structures could have solved a discrepancy in the law. I have enclosed the letters from the Barnard Zoning Administrator and Select Board for the public record to show that our town recognizes our structure as agricultural and further asserts that it “should not trigger the requirements of Act 250.”

In light of the proposed language to the Miscellaneous Ag Bill as of April 24th, 2025, we see no redress for our situation or for other farms similar to ours. We agree with Caroline Sherman of Rural Vermont that we respectfully request that sections 4&5 be dropped in their entirety from the Miscellaneous Ag Bill. We see the proposed wording as a policy shift that would benefit from more stakeholder input. Our Collective is committed to working with you, Senators Major and Senator Ingalls, Rural Vermont, ANRC, and the LURB over the coming year.

Blessings,

Joseph Morel, Proprietor of Eastman Farm and member of Fable Collective.