

To: Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for receiving input for House Bill No. 527, considering the future of 30 V.S.A., 248a. We are residents of Worcester, VT and neighbors to the failed telecommunication tower project proposed by Industrial Communications in 2021-22. Because of that experience, we feel strongly that Act 248a should be allowed to sunset or significantly modified.

For the most part, our problem is not with the intent of 248a which we understand to be the facilitation of telecommunication in rural areas. Our problem is with its administration and oversight which has allowed developers to run roughshod over Town ordinances, truth-telling and even specific provisions included in the law itself. Act 248a describes a process designed to give weight to **input from towns**, a specific **time-frame** that allows rural town officials (typically volunteers) time to become informed about the process/product, and mandated **maps** and documents that describe the product.

Our experience was quite different. But the real gut punch was that not one transgression was addressed by the State. Not once were Industrial's feet held to the fire to follow the rules. In fact, quite the opposite. Here are a few examples:

- Complete dismissal of Worcester's well thought out Town Ordinance regulating the building of telecommunication towers in our town.
- Inadequate, delayed and untimely notification of the project to both Town officials and adjoining land owners, eating up much of the 45 day period allowed for Town response. (Note: during that period, all questions were to be directed toward an attorney who was unavailable and on an extended vacation.)
- Required coverage maps not provided within mandated time frame despite, numerous requests from Town.
- Required coverage maps not including information needed to effectively evaluate proposed impact of project.

It is our conclusion that Act 248a exists primarily to grease the process for large out-of-state developers to do business in Vermont. If the law cannot be changed to limit industry's ability to brazenly stampede with impunity through Vermont villages, then please consider the merits of sunset.

Very sincerely,

John & Toni Kaeding
Worcester, Vermont
802-279-0853