

Vermont Senate Transportation Committee,

I am writing to you to confirm my support of S 66, the current revision of Vermont's Vehicle Noise Ordinance.

I have lived in Milton since the late 1970's. My home is at the intersection of Vermont Rte. 7 and Lake Road. Lake Road is at a slight incline from Rt 7 and vehicles tend to accelerate up the grade and some trucks tend to "Jake Brake" down the grade.

Several years ago, to address the number of accidents at the intersection, the State of Vermont worked with the town of Milton and changed the intersection from a Y to a T. The grade on Lake Road was lowered 18" from my driveway to Rte 7 and concrete gravity retaining walls were installed on both sides of Lake Rd. This resulted in creating a sound chamber that has amplified traffic noise. Average traffic noise is tolerable, but some drivers treat this stretch of road as an opportunity to amplify their vehicle's acceleration and noise as they race up the hill.

At times, the noise generated from unmuffled, accelerating vehicles traveling past our home is so loud that my wife and I can't hear each other speaking at our kitchen table. Outdoors, the noise is much worse. It has made outdoor living in our back yard unpleasant to say the least.

Some trucks use their "Jake Brakes" on Lake Rd as they approach the stop sign at the intersection. Other trucks use them as they travel south on Rte 7, slowing to turn onto Lake Rd. This is not a steep descent and there is no cause to use them. Jake braking in and of itself is not excessively loud if the trucks have adequate mufflers. So again the issue is inadequately muffled vehicles. Unmuffled motorcycles passing on Rte 7 and Lake Road are another huge source of excessive, preventable traffic noise.

While the late Don Turner was Milton's town manager, he and I discussed the excessive noise and speed issue at our intersection. He was aware of the issue and made some suggestions about posting a digital speed sign and posting an officer in a driveway. He advised me to contact my Senator and Representative which I did as well as reaching out to the committee to ask about the status on S 64. At that time, S 64 was on the wall and I offered to give testimony but as we know S 64 never got to testimony stage. I am glad to see S 66 has generated some discussion.

I have expressed my concerns regarding excessive vehicle noise to my senator Chris Mattos who lives past me of our road and he is aware of the noise generated near the intersection and understands my concern. He shared with me his concerns about the pressure on law enforcement to implement S 66. I see law enforcement in the role of identifying offenders and the state inspection process under section 1222 evaluating compliance. I see the bill recommends money collected by fines to be put in the enforcement budget. I believe this bill has been carefully drafted.

As you know, Vermont is the only state in the Union with no restrictions on vehicle noise. I am aware that both St. Albans and Essex have recently drafted their own noise ordinances. Noise pollution has become an increasingly troublesome issue for Vermonters and the state has the ability to create a vehicle noise ordinance applicable to all communities in the state.

Thank you for considering this.  
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