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From: Merle Russell

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:14 PM

To: Act 250 Comments <[Act250Comments@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:Act250Comments@leg.state.vt.us)>

Subject: Strengthen Act 250 to protect Vermont

Act 250 Commission

VT

RE: Strengthen Act 250 to protect Vermont

Dear Act 250 Commission,

I am writing to ask the that Commission on Act 250 work to strengthen this law to protect Vermont's natural resources, character and people.

As the Commission focuses on updating Act 250 to ensure that it properly protects our communities and environment, please consider the following:

1. We need strong standards for development that will protect our natural resources and our communities. Our forests and agricultural lands are precious natural resources that must be safeguarded in Act 250. Development must be held to a high standard to ensure that we enrich our downtowns and villages while reducing sprawl. Act 250 should support compact, as opposed to scattered, development.
2. We need forward-thinking regulations for new development that will protect our climate. New development should be required to reduce energy use and use clean energy as much as possible.
3. We need an improved appeals process. The appeals process should be more efficient, and should prioritize accessibility to members of the public by being easily understandable, user-friendly and affordable.
4. We need more capacity, training and resources to District Commissioners to improve the review process.

Act 250 is a crucial law that should continue to play a key role in shaping development in Vermont. During this review process, the Commission should strengthen this law to protect Vermont's communities and environment for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Merle Russell  
VERSHIRE, VT 05079