

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my grave concerns about the proposal put forth by VNRC and the Governor to 'streamline' Act 250. This proposal undermines the intent and soul of the law and I suggest you reject it outright.

Climate scientists are telling us that protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems is the best way to counter the effects of climate change. When implemented properly Act 250 does this. Act 250 is actually the best guide we have to help with this effort.

Doing away with the District Commissions is an affront to democracy. Not only are the District Commissions essential to a thriving democratic process, citizen participation and representation, they provide meaningful employment and the environmental protections that are necessary today more than ever.

If anything, we should be strengthening and expanding Act 250 to 'modernize' it, as Brian Shupe says, not dismantling it.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Suzanna Jones
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