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February 18, 2022

House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
State House  
Montpelier, Vermont

Subject: H.492, the structure of the Natural Resources Board  
Comments on draft 4.1 and committee discussion

Dear Committee:

I support the Environmental Review Board proposed by this bill.

At your hearing Wednesday, you spent much time on the nominating process.

1. I think you agreed to require incumbents to compete for re-appointment. I support that: incumbents should have to compete for re-appointment.
2. The committee is required to ensure that a candidate possesses attributes of integrity, impartiality, work ethic, and availability. Part of the basis of creating the committee is to reduce political influence on Act 250. There is nothing in the bill about considering the attitudes of candidates toward the purposes, procedures, and goals of Act 250. Please consider whether to add such an additional attribute.
3. I urge you to consider how to make the ERB fully operational in significantly less time than the two years proposed in the bill.

I acknowledge that time is running short for you to vote this bill out of committee. I do not want these comments to prevent getting the bill out of committee in time to give the Senate sufficient time to evaluate it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Weiss