

Attachment to Rep. Tesha Buss's letter

I am the State Representative for Windsor-5, which includes the towns of Plymouth, Reading and Woodstock.

I own and operate a lodging establishment in Plymouth.

As a small-scale real estate developer and consultant, I work with engineers and contractors regularly and have personal experience with many aspects of the permitting process.

I have experience in selling and creating community solar arrays and recently obtained Public Utility Commission permits for a 150kW community solar array in Woodstock.

Several years ago, Green Mountain Power applied for a permit to replace utility poles in Reading, a town I represent. This project was necessary to increase grid reliability for utility customers in the area. The Act 250 process took more than 1,000 days, as parties debated whether the "cognizable change" rule required new poles to be placed in the exact position of old poles.

I have been through the Environmental Court process twice. In one case, briefs were submitted by each party on a timed schedule. The process was fair and predictable. The second case required mediation, which is open-ended, with no deadline for completion. The process took seven months and included a 13-hour mediation session.