

Commentary from Rochester:

I would like to voice my thoughts with the future of Vermont. I am a 9th or 10th generation Vermonter with deep roots in the agriculture and forestry community of Vermont. My concern is we seem to be losing a voice in politics and it bothers me to see developments become established in areas we used to be able to apply or trade. The trend of young people leaving Vermont is very concerning although my own family is in fact our young stay and create opportunity for themselves based on the core utilitarian beliefs we were brought up with. Vermont is unique in its marketing as it has not the traditional influences and you find a lot of small business developing and marketing a unique product that would be overlooked in a larger setting. I am also concerned with the trend towards public employment and what that means for rural sustainability. People who want to own land for recreation don't like to be bothered by folks making a living unless it is in support of their recreation. I would like to also revisit current use and ensure that this land is benefiting the community that provides its relief and if no intended action is going to be taken have it withdrawn.

Thank you