

VNRC BULLETIN

Published by the Vermont Natural Resources Council • Winter, 1992

VNRC, PUBLIC SPEAK OUT FOR ACT 200 PLANNING

Over 1,000 citizens turned out on a frosty January evening to debate the merits of Vermont's planning law, and while Act 200 opponents were noisy in their criticism, the majority of testimony was in favor of the law. VNRC was among the many that testified at the hearing, held by the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees to debate two proposed bills that would weaken Act 200.

Farmers and foresters, conservationists, small business owners, municipal officials, and many others travelled from the four corners of the state to testify in favor of planning.

Winona Smith, testifying on behalf of the League of Women Voters, noted that "Vermont League policy has been very supportive of local control, planning and decision-making for years.... Act 200 provides for these ideas and policies."



Above: VNRC Executive Director Ned Farquhar was among the many who testified in favor of Act 200 planning at a House and Senate hearing this January.

Elbert G. Moulton, former Secretary of Development and Community Affairs, said, "Good community planning is the first step in economic development, and economic development, in turn, is the encouragement and creation of the best possible new jobs for our fellow Vermonters."

"Opponents of Act 200 have consistently distorted the content of Act 200, raising undue public concern," says VNRC Executive Director Ned Farquhar. "Meanwhile,

uproar over the law diverts time from more important legislative issues such as job creation, health care, property taxes and the budget crisis," he adds.

VNRC is leading the fight to protect the planning law from attacks this legislative session.

What You Can Do

H.438 and S.116 are now before the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees. Both bills would repeal or gut major parts of Act 200. Support-

ers of land use planning are urged to write or call the chairs of these committees to voice support for Act 200. Contact: Rep. Curt McCormack, House Natural Resources Committee, and Senator George E. Little, Jr., Senate Natural Resources Committee, State House, Montpelier, VT 05602. Telephone messages may be left with the Sergeant at Arms toll-free at 1-800-322-5616.

For more information on Act 200 or the proposed bills, contact VNRC at (802) 223-2328. •