

CD Armstrong

Thank you for coming Governor. Obviously a lot of people care about this issue. I speak to lots of builders and developers on a daily basis. I know from my personal experience with them, that most of them care probably almost as much as people here do about our environment and natural resources that drive their business in the state on a daily basis. They love to hunt, fish, cycle, canoe, all those things that we all love to do. And they often know, as Bucky said, that often that is the economic engine, that's the golden goose, that drives their business, and people building second homes in particular in the state.

After listening to builders and developers often complain about environmental regulations over 25 years, I'm convinced that they don't necessarily believe we're over-regulated, but they often find the regulations confusing. So I'd like to make three suggestions of things you might consider. One, to help bring clarity and consistency to our environmental regulations, across different state agencies. Two, to promote clarity to regulations in terms of sound science; there are lots of wonderful people within our natural resource agencies, who have sound science, but not a lot of us who aren't scientists understand them. And lastly, this is probably not a new idea, but appoint within an existing state agency, not something new, an ombudsman of sorts, to assist small businesses, like small builders and developers, to navigate the maze of environmental regulations; at least what they perceive to be a maze of environmental regulations. Most of them want to do the right thing: they just don't necessarily know how to do it, and I think that could be a big help. I'd be happy also to talk to any of your staff about more specifics, if that's of interest.

Thank you.

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