

February 19, 2015

To: Committee of Public Safety and Security:

Subject: Implementing an amendments or revising bill on blasting regulations regarding bill # 6494

Concerning blasting in Thompson and in many other towns in Connecticut; a bill must be set forth that the developers who are quarrying, mining and blasting needs regulation to protect the effect on the residents and structures located near the continuous blasting operations.

We are at least 29 property owners that are being affected with structural damage, water well damages, homes or business properties being shaken causing great fear among residents when a blast occurs. The answer that residents receive when complaints about damages are brought forward to the developer and or the blasting company is that in this case, Maine Drilling and Blasting, will deny all claims of damage and respond that they are in compliance with their rules and regulations. They insist those affected should prove that the damage was caused by the blasting company.

In Connecticut law, under 5620, the local fire marshal only has the duties to oversee how the explosives are being transported and stored. There are no statues that require them to be on the blasting site before the blast occurs, to measure the depth of the holes, number of holes, how much explosive is in each of the holes, type of blasting method, and the recording of the blast, or to then providing the blasting recording to the community.

At the present time, these blasting companies have a do whatever approach and will do as they please because of the lack of regulations about quarrying, mining and blasting. Citizens, residents, businesses, ground water, air quality, town utilities must be protected and if it occurs, compensated for damages that are caused by blasting and their effects. Without regulations put in place, limiting the size and magnitude of a blast

and having an overseer, we are not protecting the people, community and State of Connecticut and its resources.

At this time, after numerous meeting, working with the planning and zoning commission and French River Materials, the size of the blasts have been curtailed to a lesser of degree but still causing properties being shaken by the air blasts and still shows affects on the properties.

This project is proposed for at least another ten years. With at least one blast per month, that would be another 120 times that potential damage could take place.

There are numerous towns, cities and states that have regulatory procedures to protect its citizens. Hopefully the State of Connecticut will be able to do the same

Thank you for taking the time to review the blasting concerns that we have that are doing damages to our lifestyles, properties and natural resources.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone: 860-377-9775 or my home phone at: 860-935-9177.

Thank You,

Donat Charron

Member of Concerned Thompson Citizens Against Blasting Damages